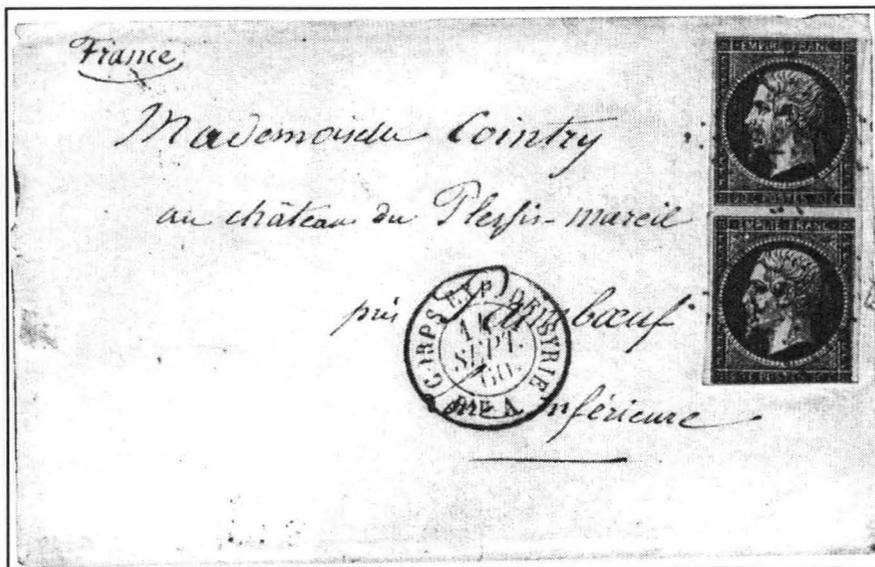




France & Colonies Philatelist



Cover bearing a superb strike of the CORPS EXP. DE SYRIE date stamp, 14 September 1860, and two strikes of the corresponding CESA killer on a double weight letter from the 1860 Syrian Expedition to France. No franchise was accorded to the troops participating in this campaign. Sold for 8,000 Fr in 1995. Being addressed to Mlle. [Elise] Cointry, it most certainly have once contained a very long and very passionate love letter.

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VIGNETTES OF PHILATELY IN CAMEROUN

by M. P. Bratzel, Jr. (FCPS #2394)

Five items from the *Journal officiel du Cameroun* gauge philatelic activity and the perspective afforded postage stamps in Cameroun between 1931 and 1945.

Arthur

Maury must have felt that the number of stamp collectors or potential collectors in Cameroun, especially with the onset of the depression, was sufficiently large to warrant his advertisement (Figure 1) published in the April 15, 1931 issue of the *Journal*

officiel. He promoted packets and collections as well as offering to purchase all colonial stamps.

On October 9, 1942, during World War II, a philatelic society was formed in Cameroun. The notice published on December 1, 1942 (Figure 2) advised that the governor had approved the society's statutes on November 5. The goals included promotion of philately, protecting the interests of deceased members in the sale of their collections, simplifying the security of collections, facilitating group purchases, procurement of new issues at fair prices, and creation of stamp circuits. The society, to be headquartered at Douala, would be administered by an executive of seven members, each with specific responsibilities and serving without remuneration.

On November 15, 1943, the export of postage stamps came under government control. To conform with the decree of May 20, 1940 regarding the export of assets, the use of postage stamps to pay bills was to be treated in the same manner as other exported merchandise (Figure 3). Prior authorization would be required and the sender obligated to deposit the corresponding value with the local exchange office. Consequently, postage stamps could only be sent to foreign destinations after an export license had been issued by the economic office in Douala. However, Cameroun postage stamps could be exchanged for foreign postage stamps without a license, with the reservation that their value be limited and each sending be submitted for prior approval by the director of the exchange office in Douala.

Marseille dealer D. Cordier must have been looking to re-establish contact with his clientele and reinvigorate his business disrupted by the war. He published advertisements promoting his illustrated monthly price lists on May 15 and June 1, 1945, respectively shown in Figures 4 and 5. One wonders whether the former contained a typographical error when the word "philanthropique" was used rather than "philatélique."

PRIX COURANT 1931
Séries (1800) paquets et collections
NOMBREUSES ET RÉELLES OCCASIONS
 est adressé gratis et franco par
Maison ARTHUR MAURY
 6, Boul. Montmartre, PARIS (9^e)
ACHAT aux plus hauts prix de tous timbres des Colonies.
 1-2

Figure 1. Advertisement by Arthur Maury. "*Journal officiel*," April 15, 1931, page 262.

DÉCLARATION D'ASSOCIATION

AMICALE PHILATÉLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

A la date du 9 octobre 1942, il a été formé entre les philatélistes du Cameroun, une association dite "**Amicale Philatélique du Cameroun**", dont les statuts ont été approuvés par lettre de M. le gouverneur en date du 5 novembre 1942.

But: permettre aux collectionneurs d'entrer en relations entre eux, propager le goût de la philatélie, défendre les intérêts de tout membre venant à décéder, pour la réalisation de sa collection, faciliter l'assurance des collections, faciliter aux membres l'achat en commun et l'obtention des nouveautés au plus juste prix, créer des circulations.

Siège social: Douala (Cameroun).

Administration: assurée par un comité de sept membres dont un président, un vice-président, un secrétaire général, un trésorier, un directeur du service des échanges, un membre chargé de la propagande et de la presse, toutes fonctions gratuites. Les membres du comité peuvent se remplacer mutuellement.

Figure 2.
Notice of formation of stamp society. "Journal officiel," December 1, 1942, p. 607.

* * *

EXPORTATION DE TIMBRES-POSTE

Conformément aux dispositions du décret du 20 mai 1940 réglementant les exportations de capitaux, les exportations de timbres-poste qui constituent des moyens de paiement au même titre que les autres marchandises, doivent faire l'objet d'une autorisation préalable et comporter l'engagement, de la part de l'expéditeur, d'en verser la contre-valeur à l'Office local des changes.

Les envois de timbres-poste à destination de l'étranger ne peuvent, en conséquence, être effectués que sur licence d'exportation réglementaire délivrée par le Bureau de l'économie générale, à Douala.

Toutefois, les échanges de timbres du Cameroun contre des timbres étrangers peuvent être admis sans licence d'exportation, sous réserve que leur montant soit limité et que chaque envoi soit soumis à l'approbation préalable du directeur de l'Office local des changes, à Douala.

Figure 3.
Notice regarding the export of postage stamps. "Journal officiel," November 15, 1943, page 491.

COLLECTIONNEURS DE TIMBRES
la plus importante revue Philatélique
d'Europe attend votre abonnement au
PRIX COURANT PHILANTHROPIQUE ILLUSTRÉ

Mensuel paraissant sur 40 à 80 pages

Le N° : **40** frs. — 1 an (12 N°s) : **200** frs franco.
Service facultatif par avion - 1 an : **2.600** frs franco.

D. CORDIER, éditeur, 64, rue Grignan, MARSEILLE

*Figure 4.
Advertisement
by Maison
Cordier.
"Journal"
officiel,
May 15, 1945,
page 378.*

PHILATÉLISTES
vient de paraître la 35^e édition du
PRIX COURANT PHILATÉLIQUE ILLUSTRÉ

Revue mensuelle universelle

Le numéro : **40** francs
donnant le cours actuel des timbres de France, des Colonies et de l'Étranger.

ABONNEMENT : 1 an (12 numéros) : **200** francs.

Maison CORDIER, 64, Rue Grignan - MARSEILLE

*Figure 5.
Advertisement
by Maison
Cordier.
"Journal
officiel,"
June 1, 1945,
page 398.*

Given the nature and limited distribution of a bureaucratic publication like the *Journal officiel*, one wonders how many people the dealers' advertisements actually reached. Also, one wonders how the Amicale Philatélique du Cameroun fared over the long term.

Reference

Journal officiel des territoires du Cameroun. Yaoundé, Imprimerie du Gouvernement. Note: The title varies slightly from one issue to another.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF POSTAL SERVICE BETWEEN CAMEROUN AND FRANCE DURING WORLD WAR II by M.P. Bratzel, Jr. (FCPS #2394)

On November 1, 1944, the PTT issued a notice (shown below) on page 745 of the *Journal officiel du Cameroun*. Each Cameroun resident would be permitted to send three letters of 5 grams [maximum] each to relatives in France. The sender's name and address had to be included. Authorities in Douala would mark sealed envelopes in order to control the number of letters and to exercise control over the contents. Collection would be centralized at Algiers and mail transported thence to Paris. The PTT would ensure prompt distribution from there throughout France.

Presumably a similar notice was issued for other overseas territories. Imagine the gamut of emotions accompanying the opportunity to communicate with family members after more than four years of wartime isolation.

CORRESPONDANCES pour la Métropole.

Le Département a décidé exceptionnellement et en attendant la réouverture des services postaux réguliers, les mesures suivantes :

1°. — Chaque camerounais pourra adresser trois lettres pesant 5 grammes chacune à famille directe résidant en France. Les lettres porteront l'adresse de l'expéditeur.

2°. — Cabinet civil Douala estampillera enveloppes fermées afin de contrôler nombre correspondances et dirigera immédiatement sous pli officiel.

3°. — Les lettres seront centralisées à Alger qui fera suivre officiellement sur Paris.

4°. — Le Département assurera sans délai la répartition des correspondances dans les diverses régions de la France.

Reference

Journal officiel des territoires du Cameroun. Yaoundé, Imprimerie du Gouvernement. Note: The title varies slightly from one issue to another.

A GUIDE TO COLLECTING THE SABINES OF GANDON

by Stanley J. Luft. (FCPS #915)

Every few years, usually coinciding with a change in the Presidency, a new design is chosen to serve for the next regular issue of France. Thus it came to pass that the Sabine design was selected, and first released in 1977, for the presidency of Giscard d'Estaing.

Engraved by the venerable master Pierre Gandon, it consists of a very small portion of David's famous painting, "The Rape of the Sabine Women." The design shows the face of a woman in three-quarter profile, her long hair in tight and looser ringlets and curls (Figure 1). Truly one of the more attractive French definitive designs of the past 120-plus years.



Figure 1.

How should this series be collected? Any way you want to, or not at all. However, if you wish to consider specializing in this fairly recent and still readily available and largely inexpensive series, you should consider assembling a monographic collection; that is, obtaining the stamps in all their formats and aspects.

According to the Yvert catalogue, there are 35 different stamps (major varieties only) and 10 different stamps from coil strips in the Sabine series. Almost a specialty in itself if one collected but one example of each. But, this accounting excludes such varieties as missing phosphor bands, phosphor bands on the wrong side, all booklets, deluxe presentation sheetlets, gum and paper varieties, printings from different presses, and postal stationery. All these add up to constitute a **minimal** monographic collection.

Sheet stamps. Three different types of presses were used for printing the stamps. The lowest (0.01, 0.02, 0.05) values, plus some printings of the 0.30, the 0.80 greenish brown and the 1.00 green, were printed on older TD3 (*Taille-Douce* [= line-engraved], 3 colors) presses. All other values, including parts of the 0.80 greenish brown and 1.00 green press runs, came off the newer TD6 (6 colors) presses. Additionally the RGR (*Rotative à Grand Rendement* [= extra-rapid rotary]) press was introduced shortly before the appearance of the Sabines. The RGR press printed only the most commonly used (red or green) stamps. At times of increased postal rates, when 0.10 and 0.20 stamps were required in quantity as complementary (make-up) values, they too were printed on the RGR press. You might say, so what? But look at Figures 2-4 and note how the press products differ, as shown on these press-indicative *coin datés* (dated corner blocks) or larger strips. Your monographic collection will surely be enhanced by showing the various examples of dated blocks. Further specialization involves collecting different printing dates and press numbers, marginal perforation guide markings, etc.

Booklets. These are best collected as complete, "unexploded" booklets. Though the panes are the more important, the covers are worth showing too. Booklets were printed on the TD6-4 and TD6-6 presses which also, on other days, printed sheet stamps. Booklets of red stamps (for "fast" domestic letters) come in two basic formats: booklets of 10 (two panes of 5) stamps (Figure 5) and of 20 (two panes of 10) stamps (Figure 6). Those of green stamps (for "slow" domestic letters and printed matter) come only as booklets of 20. Booklets of 10 stamps were also made for certain vending machines ("Special Series 9" booklets) (Figure 7). A minority of booklet panes show press numbers and printing dates (Figures 5-6) in the selvage; others have accountancy numbers. Both are collectible, especially the former. If you are also collecting single and/or used booklet stamps, those from panes of 5

stamps are evenly machine cut at top and bottom; those from panes of 10 only at top or bottom. I like to collect used singles on fragment (to show I didn't cut the perfs myself), preferably showing a date stamp with legible date of posting.

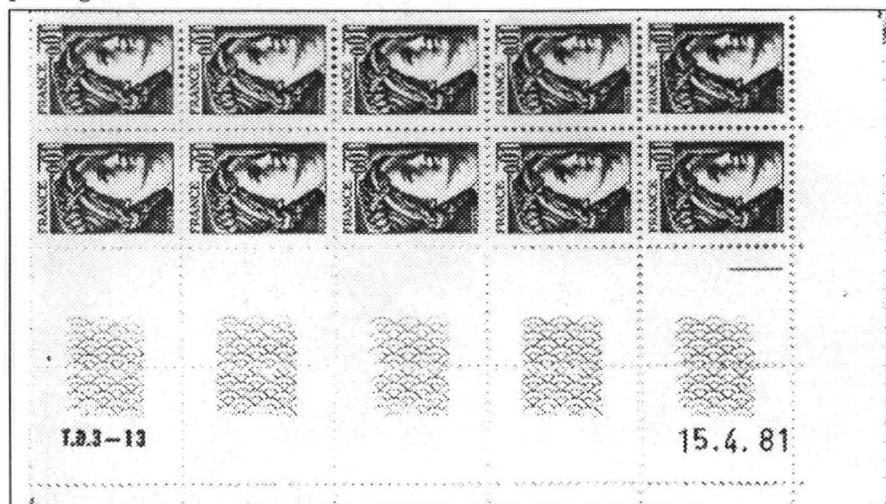


Figure 2. Coin daté of the TD3-printed 0.01 value (15 April 1981 printing, from Press TD3-13).



Figure 3. Bottom block of 10 of the TD6-printed 0.10 value. Note that the orientation of these stamps is perpendicular to those printed on TD3 presses. (21 March 1978 printing, Press TD6-2).

Colors of covers, that otherwise contain the same stamp values, can differ. Additionally, special covers were printed to promote the PhilexFrance 82 international exposition (Figure 8).

Coil stamps. All coil stamps were printed on the TD6-7 press, but press indication and printing dates do not appear on coils. French coils formerly were collected preferably in strips of 11 stamps to prove they did not come from sheets. But inasmuch as all Sabine coils are perforated only at top and bottom (Figure 9), singles are eminently acceptable in one's collection. Accounting numbers are printed on backs (on top of the gum) of every 10th stamp, and examples of these should be collected (Figure 10). Because the accounting numbers will generally wash off, used coils should be collected on

cover, or at least on piece. As a sideline, you might attempt to obtain a coil leader (Figure 11) for your collection. Not easily accomplished!



Figure 4. Bottom block of 10 stamps of the RGR-printed 1,20 red value. Note the subtle differences in date numerals and in press-number fonts and location, compared with the typical TD6 product. (11 January 1979 printing).

Figure 5. Booklet of 10 stamps; the 4-3.5.78 translates as Press [TD6-] 4, 3 May 1978.



Figure 6. Booklet of 20 stamps, 4 August 1979 printing from Press [TD6-] -6.



Figure 7. "Special Series 9" booklet of 10 stamps, opened up.

Postal stationery. Only postal cards, printed in green and with the indicia of the green stamps, were produced (Figure 12). All come from the TD6-6 press. Unofficial cachets for special events and stamp shows abound and can dress up a collection.



Figure 8. PhilexFrance 82 cover for booklet of 20 of the 1,20 red stamp; numeral 8 at left stands for Series 8.



Figure 9.
1,20 coil stamp.



Figure 10.
Accountancy
number on back
of coil stamp.

Figure 11.
Coil leader [actually, for the earlier, 0,80 Marianne de Bequet].

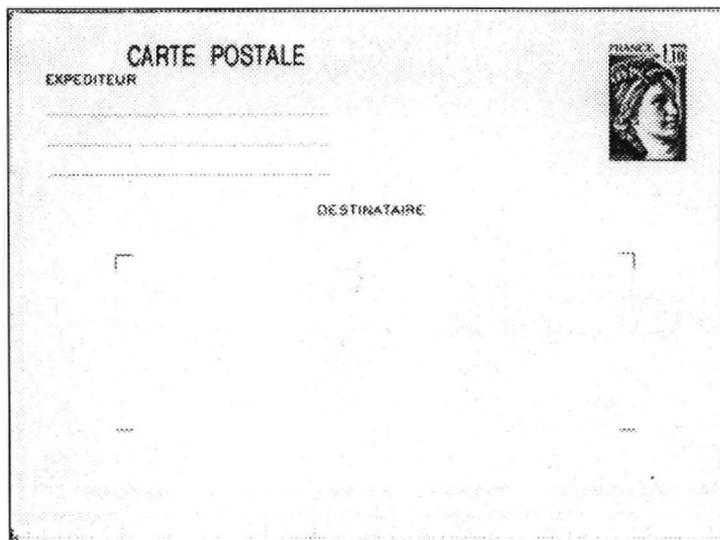
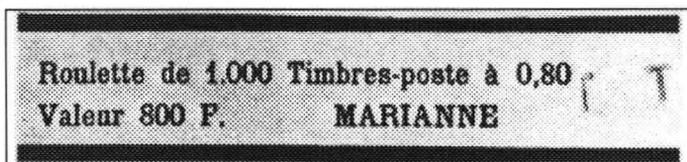


Figure 12.
1,10 postal
card.

Phosphorescent bands. All Sabines, except for the 0.01, 0.02 and 0.05 values, were printed with added vertical phosphorescent bands or bars (Figure 13) though there are exceptions--mainly expressed as missing bands. Their purpose was to facilitate automatic sorting via optical scanners. All red stamps (for "rapid" domestic first weight class letters), and higher denominations, bear (or should bear) two bands, one per side. All green stamps, and those of lesser face value down to the 0.10 value, have one band at the right. One press run of the 0.20 value was accidentally printed with band at left, then so printed in quantity to discourage speculation.

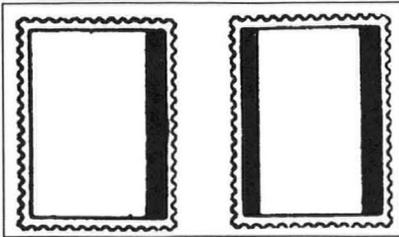


Figure 13. Phosphorescent bands, shown in black for emphasis.

Figure 14. States of the 1.00 value.



The bands come in three basic types:

A (called D by some writers), is dull (matte) under ordinary light and homogeneous under ultra-violet (UV) light; used on TD3 presses and for stamped postal cards.

B is dull under ordinary light and uneven (denser on outside than in middle) under UV light; used on TD6 presses N° 4, 6 and 7.

C is shiny and homogeneous under ordinary light and appears framed under UV light; an instantaneously drying phosphor pigment that was used for the RGR press.

I find it a fascinating pastime to “lamp” used accumulations, in the search for missing, offset, misplaced, extraneous, incomplete, etc. phosphorescent bands.

Paper. There’s not much that I can say about paper. The “endless” rolls of paper for the various rotary presses were purchased at varying times from a variety of suppliers. Thickness and shades do differ. Some stamp papers remain neutral under UV light; others will show differing intensities of optical whiteners and will “glow” bluish white in varying degree. There’s still pioneering work to be done on stamp paper, and not just for that used for the Sabines.

Gum. The side of a stamp that should “never show a trace of hinge” is marked by two basic types of gum. “Metropolitan” gum, the basic one for use in France, is shiny in varying degree. Tropical (D.O.M., for the Overseas Departments) is dull and almost invisible. Somewhere between these two lies the gum made for those coil stamps that were printed in rolls destined to domicile within out-of-doors vending machines. “Holland” (*hollandaise*) gum, present on several of the values printed for sheets on TD6 presses is dull, nearly invisible, and slightly less grayish-tinged than tropical gum; its limited application was probably experimental. Collectors of used stamps need not concern themselves over gum.

Varieties. The most important are the so-called states of the 1.00 value (Figure 14). State 2 is found in all formats of all three colors of the 1.00. State

1 is known only on red sheet stamps and booklets from TD6 presses and on green booklet stamps (also from TD6 presses).

As usual with most any stamp issued, the Sabines are not devoid of minor, "fleyspeck" varieties. In some red stamps, the value tablet did not ink completely, resulting in "white letters." As for others, it's entirely up to your desire to live with eyestrain.

All(?) values exist imperforate; some officially, for presentation purposes, others accidentally or "accidentally on purpose" (i.e., printers' waste).

Partial, incomplete impressions exist, especially on booklet panes. Also incomplete ("blind") perforations, marginal selvage markings (serving as perforation guides, etc.); offset or recto-verso impressions; etc., etc.

Finally, a monographic collection could include artist's proofs and essays (should any appear on the market). Or, "official documents." At the very least a batch of First Day covers.

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THE SOCIETY OF WORKS OF THE SEA

The brutal existence endured by commercial fishermen on the high seas, particularly in the sub-Arctic regions off Newfoundland, Iceland and Greenland, eventually led to the creation of benevolent aid missions in a number of countries. Among their functions were the founding of hospitals and clinics for sick and crippled merchantmen, financial and other aid to their families and, more to our interest and purpose, facilitating the exchange of mail between the fishermen and their families. In France, the *Société des Oeuvres de Mer* was created in the winter of 1894-1895.

This Society, commemorated by Scott B68-69 and B116 (Yvert 377, 377A and 504) opened a hostel in St. Pierre-et-Miquelon (1895) and another in Iceland (1896), and launched several hospital ships from 1896-onward.

Little of the mail facilitated by the Society survives today. It may be recognized by (1) various letterheads of the Society or of its land-based (Figure 1) or seaborne facilities; (2) handstamped cachets, more commonly struck on the backs of envelopes (Figure 2); (3) the use of Society vignettes and labels on envelopes, with or without other evidence of the Society's postal intervention; (4) indications in the written address, such as "in care of the Society." Mail is known that made use of St. Pierre-et-Miquelon (Figure 1) and Icelandic stamps and postal stationery. Check your collections!

A rival, smaller and less effective society, the *Société des Hôpitaux Français à Islande*, existed for some years prior to the First World War. The *Société des Oeuvres de Mer* became largely dysfunctional with the advent of

the Second World War. Since then, the succor of seamen has been largely the responsibility of the local governments (Canada, St. Pierre-et-Miquelon, Greenland, Iceland, Great Britain, Norway, etc.)

I thank Dr. J.-F. Gibot, whose article in the April 1996 *Le Monde des Philatélistes* was the main source for this summary and also provided the two illustrations shown.

--S. J. Luft

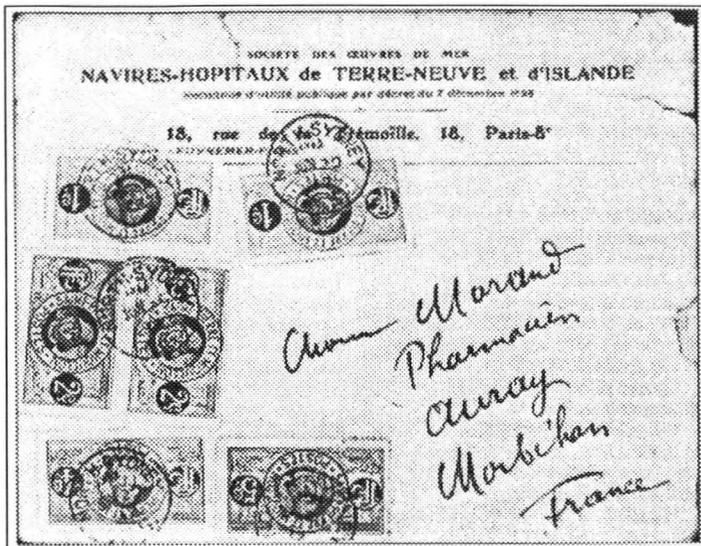


Figure 1.
One of the Society's letterhead envelopes, to Brittany, bearing St. Pierre-et-Miquelon stamps cancelled June 29, 1912 in Nova Scotia.

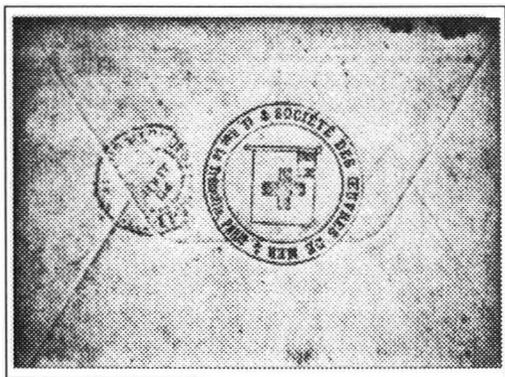


Figure 2. One of the Society's cachets, on back of 1904 envelope.

MORE PACIFIC 97 VISTAS

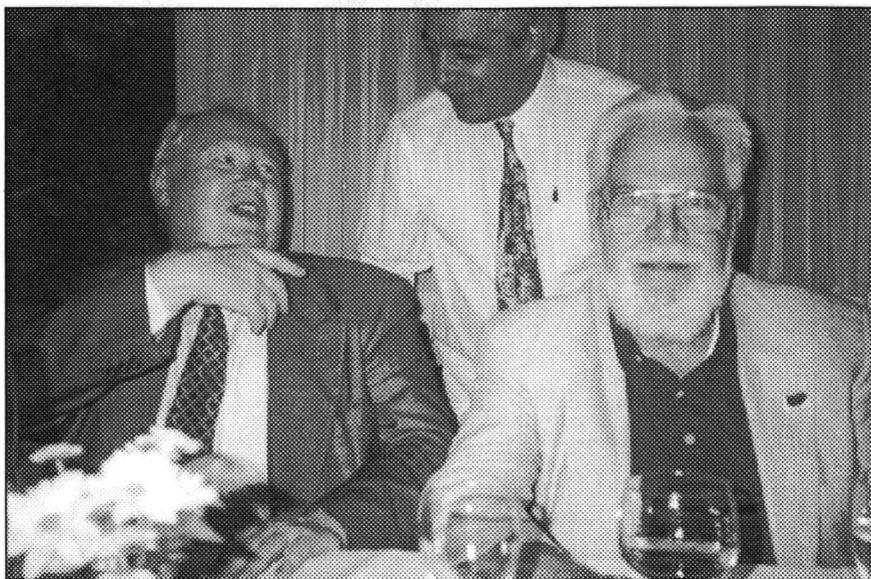


Figure 6. FCPS repast. Garçon, fill 'er up again! With B. Berkinshaw-Smith and D. Eggen.



Figure 7. FCPS repast. M. Isaacs making a point with E. Grabowski. Lenore Grabowski at end of table; R. Stevens getting an earful at right; Millets (from Paris) mostly hidden behind M. Isaacs.



Figure 8. Really got that cover for peanuts? From left: E. Grabowski, R. Stevens, T. Siddens, B. Berkinshaw-Smith.

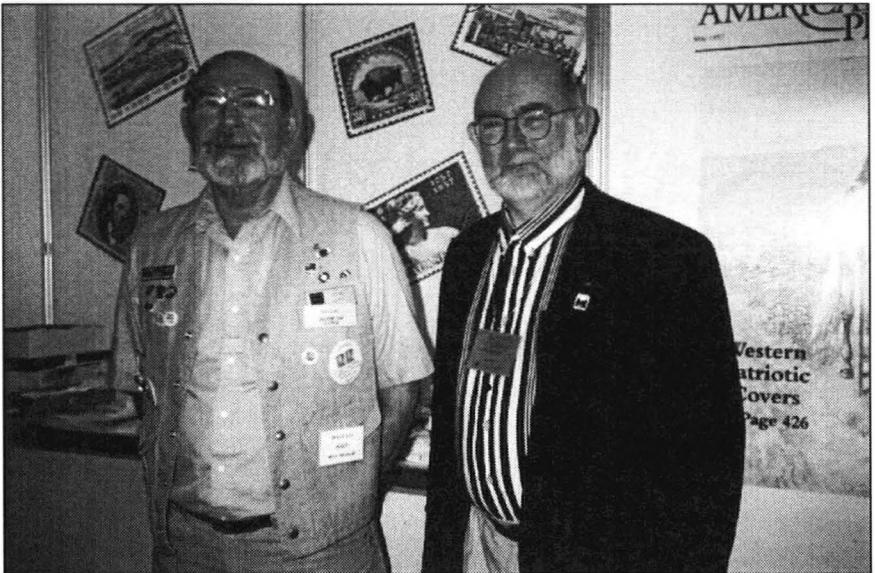


Figure 9. Two editors, no waiting. Your philatelically attired editor at left and "The American Philatelist"'s more sartorially conservative Bill Welch. We don't look alike anymore!

[mostly S. Luft photos]

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

At the urging a few years back of a literature-competition jury, I have now prepared our very first-ever tipped-in Index to the *France & Colonies Philatelist*. Here, in the middle of this January number, is your Index for years 1996-1997. Because of my long lasting and intense love affair (albeit a platonic one!) with The Past, this index was laboriously composed by hand on (what else?) index cards, then transposed and typed onto a computer program (Microsoft Publisher). There's nothing that can be done now about errors of omission and commission, but as you make use of this index, I'd appreciate learning what was unintentionally forgotten or misplaced, so as to do a better job with the next index, which should be for Year 1998.

I apologize for the fact that hardly any of the PACIFIC 97 participants were recognizable in the October 1997 number, because of the small size and overexposure of the prints shown. Whereas the second batch, shown here, may still be overexposed, they'll at least be larger in size and somewhat more detailed.

And we're happy to see much improved reproduction of our illustrations in the latest numbers, thanks to our printers', Woodward Printing Service of Platteville, WI, new copying equipment. Nonetheless, we still very much appreciate receiving laser copies of illustrations from our authors.

Articles to be published in future numbers

French Marcophily (continuation)

The Carnet Corner (continuation)

Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories (continuation)

Occasional Fundamentals (continuation)

The Elusive Scott #S1a

Gustave Zédé and the Unrealized Dream of Airmail to Paris during the Siege

Marseille and the "Boxed RF"

The Lemaitre-Arrachart Expedition of 1925

Another Fake "POSTES SERBES" Marking

French 19th Century Handstamped Postage Due Markings

Cancelling Devices Made or Modified at the Local Post Office

Slogan Cachets of Fort Lamy, Chad

I'm posting our backlog of articles about once a year, to prepare our members for what will eventually appear, and also to placate our authors who might otherwise feel neglected or forgotten. Yes, to be sure, we're looking good--right now. But, what can we look forward to late in the year and in 1999? Time for members, whether steady contributors or first-time authors, to consider preparing articles whether brief or extended. Please write me (address on second page of this and every number) with your projected outlines and topics, for encouragement, guidance, cooperation, whatever. One cooperative project (currently way behind schedule...) that comes to mind seeks to broaden the timeframe for usages of the various Paris district office date stamps of the Sage (1876-1901) period; additional collaborators invited.

Took a little time off to have some plaque (cholesterol and other gross stuff) scraped from my right carotid (neck) artery during mid-November. The scar should eventually balance the six-year old one on the left side. My heartfelt gratitude to all who phoned or wrote me before, during and after the operation. Now *FCP* and I should both be back on course. And now, the very best to all of you in 1998.

FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST

Index to Volumes 52 (1996) and 53 (1997)

Stanley J. Luft, compiler

PREFACE

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- Vol. 52, No. 1 (Whole No. 243), January 1996
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All citations in this Index are given as Whole Number, hyphen, and page number. Only two suffixes are used after the page number: n for short Notes, and (Rev.) for book Reviews. To the extent possible, this Index follows the formats and examples of our predecessor indexes, that of Robert G. Stone (1981) for Whole Numbers 1-182 (1941-1980) and of Richard M. Stevens [in preparation] for Whole Numbers 183-242 (1981-1995).

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id.: "French Marcophily—The Numeral Killers"	247-3
id.: "French Marcophily—Franchise Verification"	248-42
id.: "French Marcophily—Naval Markings"	250-107
Lavenas, P.: "A Lexicon of Abbreviations [and Acronyms on French Date Stamps of 1960-1995]"	245-87, 246-104, 247-8, 249-100
Luft, S. J.: "Indo-China to Switzerland—1936 Covers and Rates"	243-15

id.: "A Further Use for French High-Value Stamps, 1942-1956"	245-79
id.: "Occasional Fundamentals: A Primer on Precancelled Stamps"	248-35
id.: "'Accidental' Maritime Entry Markings"	248-55
id.: "Some Experts' Signatures and Backstamps"	250-121
id.: "Stamps as Money"	250-124
id.: Book Reviews	246-112, 247-19, 249-90
Massler, J. : "Monaco— <i>Carte d'Identité</i> Stamps"	244-46
id.: "The One That Got Away"	249-79
McKanna, A. G. : "Paris District Office Date Stamps...Period of Sage Issues"	246-99
Mendelsohn, B. M. : "Kouang-Tcheou-Wan"	246-107
Mille, F. : "Reunion: A Study of an Overprinted Stamp"	245-71
Mitchell, W. G., and Round, M. : "Upper Senegal and Niger: The 75c Camel and Rider of 1914"	249-80
Munshower, R. G. : Book Review	243-93
Picirilli, R. E. : "Postal Rates in the French Colonies, 1892-1941"	249-75, 250-115
id.: Book Review	248-57
Round, M. [see Mitchell, W. G.]	
Seeke, R. J. : "The Carnet Corner"	245-67, 248-56, 249-88
Stevens, R. M. : "Artist's Drawings for the Antilles Tercentenary Issue of Martinique"	243-3
id.: "French Stamps Used at the Serbian Post Office in Corfu: Sequel"	249-88
Stone, H. F. : "From Atlantic France to Italian Switzerland in 1836"	247-12

* * * * *

AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES--33

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

PACIFIC 97 had an amusing surprise that I want to share with readers of this adventure series. A good friend, not a specialist in France or 1870 affairs, showed me a cover with the request for an opinion of it. It is mail from a French prisoner of war at the fortress of Mainz in Germany, addressed to Switzerland. The cover has a nice strike of the blue oval fortress censorship marking as well as a clear blue strike of the postage-free notice that is found in various shapes and colors on PW mail from Germany. There is also a rather poor strike of the Mainz post office.

The amazing wonder of it all is a German stamp for occupied France, a so-called Alsace-Lorraine stamp, affixed in the upper right corner, with a rather clear Mainz strike that does not tie the stamp to the cover. Upon slightly closer examination, without special light or even a magnifying glass, it is clear that the two Mainz strikes are not identical, the one on the stamp being much more detailed and clear than the one on the cover itself.

Not only does that kind of stamp not belong on any mail originating from Germany, the blue markings indicate that NO stamp had to be, or was ever affixed to this cover, which was not forwarded (in which case one might have accounted for a stamp in some cases). The faker, who may have been unfamiliar with the meanings of the blue markings, did nothing to make those strikes illegible but simply added the unnecessary stamp and somehow managed to put a Mainz postmark on it, which he copied from some original that was in much better shape than the original on the cover itself.

I did not see the description of this item in the sales list (auction catalogue?) that was sent to my friend. The fact that he, as a non-specialist, had serious doubts about the authenticity of this combination makes me wonder how the salesperson offering such merchandise could have had either the ignorance or the gall to try and sell this kind of "rarity." Since it appears to have been a European source, surely there was someone within easy reach who could have been consulted in the matter.

In brief, there is no excuse for a merchant of philatelic items to sell such unmitigated junk. As a friend of mine said, when he saw the item, "If you remove that stamp you will have a nice 1870 PW cover." Assuming that can be done without damaging the cover, at least it can be restored more or less to its original, genuine state.

Let us assume, however, that the faker had taken a bit more care and used a duplicate of the poor Mainz strike and really tied it to the cover — then what? In that case, one would have to consider the usage of the day. Mail had to be handed-in open, was then read and struck with the censorship mark, and forwarded without being given back to the writer. OK, so you say that these habits were not yet set in concrete in 1870 and that exceptions might have occurred. In fact, that did happen, as is proven by papers at the state archive at Koblenz. So we might postulate that some philatelically minded PW, with the consent or collusion of the censor, had put such a stamp on his mail and got the clerk at the post office to cancel it with his regular circular date stamp. That would, at best, make the item an oddity, which makes about as much sense as a \$5 stamp on a Valentine cover. Whether or not such an item would fetch a premium depends upon the demand for it. It has, of course, nothing to do with postal history. And no one in his right mind would suspect this particular item to be the product of a genuine philatelist, no matter how eccentric.

No matter how crude a fake may be, however, it could change hands at an outrageous price if a ruthless dealer and a wishful collector happen to get together.

NOTES ON POSTAL USE OF THE 1939 BASTILLE ISSUES OF THE COLONIES

by Thomas R. Marra (FCPS #1712)

I read with interest the letter of Greg Cykman in the July 1997 number of the *F&C Philatelist* regarding the 1939 150th Anniversary of the French Revolution ("Storming of the Bastille") Colonies omnibus semi-postal issue. There is indeed a dearth of information in both the French and English philatelic literature regarding this striking, large-format issue of vibrant color. The design evokes strong patriotic and militant themes, perhaps serving as a warning to would-be aggressors on the eve of World War II. The surtax was, indeed, intended to raise money for the defense of the Colonies. The standard catalogues tell us that 41,000 sets were printed and 14,972 sold, beginning May 5, 1939. According to Beslu's book, *La Philatélie à Tahiti*, 9,875 sets were sold in Paris and the rest went to the Colonies. By my calculation, slightly more than 5,000 sets would have been available for sale in Papeete. This issue was withdrawn from sale on December 16, 1939 and unsold sets were supposedly incinerated. I would assume that the other 23 Colonies received quantities similar to Tahiti.

Inasmuch as this was a commemorative and semi-postal issue of unusual large format with no real postal need, it is not surprising that it is rarely encountered on commercially used covers emanating from the Colonies. Even philatelic covers seem to be quite scarce and I have seen very few offered for sale in recent French *prix nets* and *vente sur offres* sales. Clearly unused remainders received favor cancels in certain Colonies, and I have seen examples with socked-on-the-nose treatment from Lome, Togo, but I doubt that favor cancels of the Colonies would have been applied to unsold remainders in Paris. I recently had the good fortune of acquiring a set of matched registered covers from 19 of the 24 issuing Colonies, missing only New Caledonia, Martinique, Madagascar, Ivory Coast and French India. The covers are philatelic and appear to have been franked by their sender (*affranchi par l'expéditeur*) in France. The majority were posted in August 1939 and received appropriate arrival backstamps in Bois-Colombes (Seine Dept.). Two of the covers (Dahomey and French Equatorial Africa) were posted on September 2, the day before France declared war on Germany. The Dahomey cover bears a postal control cachet but the French Equatorial Africa does not.

To answer Mr. Cykman's questions regarding use in Wallis & Futuna, I have reproduced photos of two covers posted 31 DEC 39 exhibiting clear cancels of the distinct double-ring "Protectorat Français-Wallis" date stamp. On the reverse are arrival strikes of Bois-Colombes from April 1940 (day illegible) (Figure 1). The four-month transit time is difficult to explain except for presumed difficulties and delays inherent in wartime travel from the Pacific to France by early 1940. My other Pacific cover, from Papeete, was posted somewhat earlier (September 4th), received a purple postal control cachet on the reverse and arrived in Bois-Colombes on October 29, 1939. I would suspect that one of the least common usages would be from the Territory of Inini, and I illustrate a cover (Figure 2) bearing the three low values of the set posted in St. Elie on August 1, 1939, with Bois-Colombes arrival backstamp on reverse dated August 22, 1939.

(Here follows some notes, abstracted from a letter to the Editor by Bill Mitchell, also on the subject of Greg Cykman's query of July 1997—Editor)



Figure 1.

I've browsed through the Gibbons catalogue, which does its best with dates of issue, and find that every set [of the "Storming of the Bastille" omnibus issue] is credited with the date of 5 July 1939. This is true of the current edition and also of the 1945 edition (yes, somehow Gibbons managed to scrounge enough paper - of quite good quality, too - in 1944 to enable them to produce a "Foreign Countries" catalogue of 1600 pages, although albums were forbidden). Greg's quest about Wallis suggests that they may have taken this date from advance publicity, setting out expectations that were not, in the event, realised. A study of the **franking** values of the postage portions [of the semi-postal stamps] (excluding India, Indochina and Kouang-Tcheou, which had

different currencies) is interesting. It shows that at least they did meet charges that were current in July 1939:

45c, basic printed matter, foreign (French Tariff of 1 Dec. 38)

70c, postal cards, France and Colonies (Tariff of 17 Nov. 38)

90c, basic letter, France and Colonies (same)

1F25, postal cards, foreign (Tariff of 1 Dec. 38)

2F25, basic letter, foreign (same)



Figure 2.

The 45c green, 1F25 red and 2F25 blue are the correct colours under UPU regulations. The only "air" stamp that I can account for is the Senegal (4F75), which works out at - basic foreign rate of 2F25 (Tariff of 1 Dec. 38) plus the 2F50 basic air surcharge to French West Africa (Tariff of 13 Aug. 38). The very high surtax, especially for the stamps designed for foreign rates, must have been a severe deterrent to their use. Greg is very fortunate to have two commercially used covers (both my examples are clearly philatelic), as they must be as rare as hens' teeth.

--W. G. Mitchell

1829 MILITARY LETTER FROM SENEGAL

This rather ordinary appearing cover bearing a CETTE maritime entry marking (Figure 1) may be the first known letter, of military origin, from the 1829-1830 French encroachments upon coastal Senegal. It is datelined 26 March 1829 from the Isle of Gorée, Senegal, and written (mainly with regards to family property in Normandy) by a captain in the 1st Carabiniers company of the 16th Light Infantry Regt., quartered at Gorée.

For undetermined reasons, it reached the French Mediterranean port of Cette (now Sète) only on 15 February 1830, and its destination (apparently in Normandy) on February 21, almost eleven months after it was written.

This cover will be noted in a planned revision of the Waugh/Luft handbook on French 1815-on military campaigns and their postal markings. The events are mentioned on page 16 of the current (1984) edition. --S. J. Luft

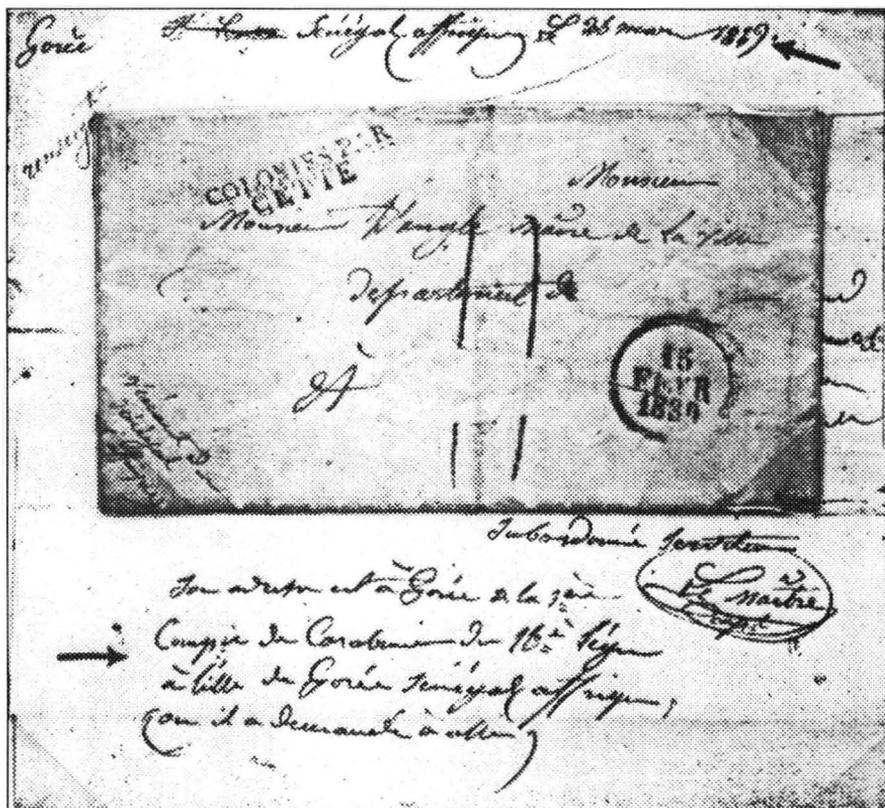


Figure 1.

NEW DATA ON TANGIERS DATE STAMPS

Illustrated here (Figure 1) are various date stamps used by the French Office in Tangiers, Morocco. A. Desbat, writing in *Le Rekkas*, N° 15, 1997, gives more precise dates-of-use for these handstamps than have hitherto been given in the older literature:

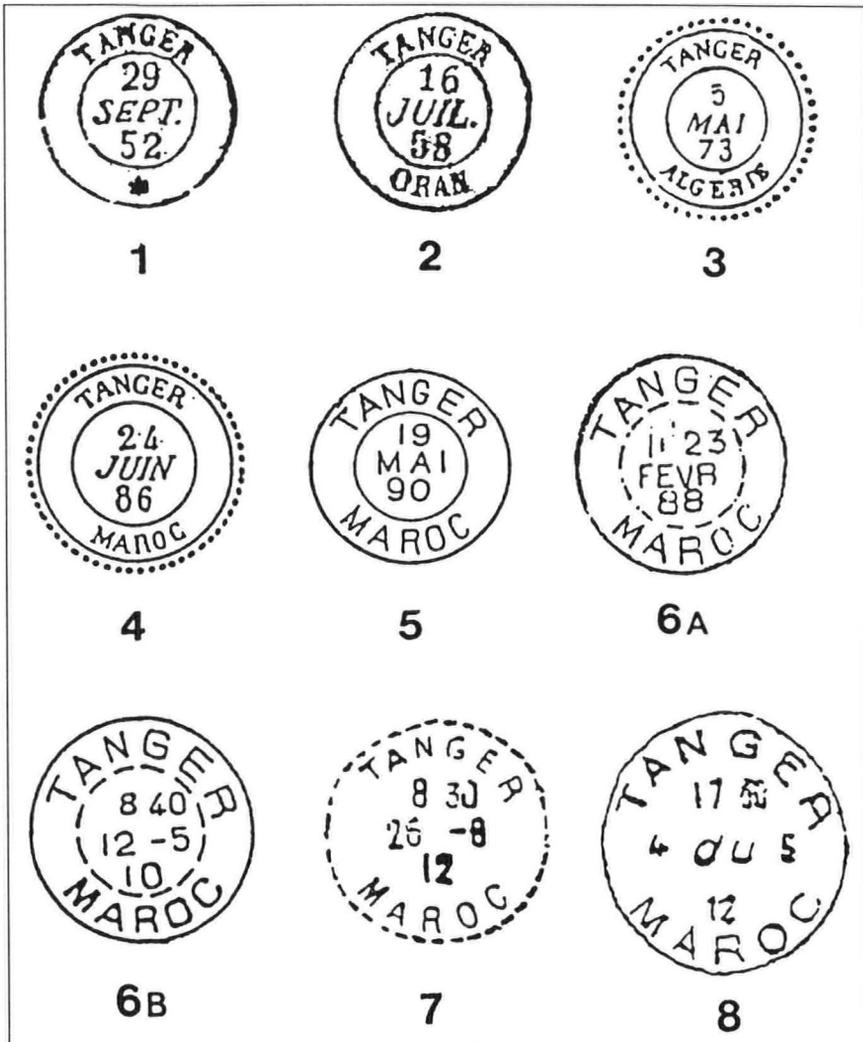


Figure 1.

1. Type 15: from 1852
2. Type 15 maritime date stamp: from 1852
3. Type 22 distribution bureau, "ALGERIE" at bottom: 1873(?) to 1885
4. Type 22 distribution bureau, "MAROC" at bottom: 1876(?) to 1887
5. Bureau de recette date stamp: from 1 June 1887

6A. Type 84 recette (month in letters): 1884-1904(?)

6B. *ibid.*, (month in numerals): 1904-1912

7. Distribution bureaus: 1911-1923(?)

8. Pneumatic-tube mail date stamp: 1912-1923.

The *gros chiffres* 5106, assigned to the Tangiers office, probably was never placed into use, according to Desbat, and used examples are of doubtful authenticity.

MEMBERS' APPEALS

INFORMATION WANTED: Does anyone have a *coin daté* of the 0,50 red Marianne de Bequet (Scott 1293, Yvert 1664) dated 27.11.70 or earlier? Please send photocopy to Bob Seeke, 110 Morey Park Rd., Nassau, NY 12123. I'll acknowledge and reimburse your cost with stamps. Thank you very much. (Mb. #1334).

OFFER: Revenues from France as well as from Colonies from Annam to Vietnam. Let me know what you can use. Also buying. Gordon Brooks, P.O. Box 396, Station N.D.G., Montreal, Quebec H4A 3P7, Canada. (Mb. #2959).

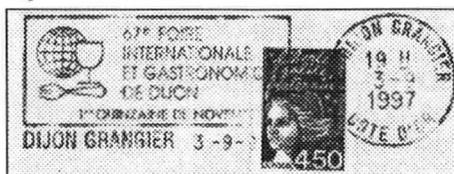
WANTED: Syria Scott catalog #RA6 mint or used or on cover. Thank you. Please make offer to Ronald J. Yaconetti, 6302 N. Augusta Place, Tacoma, WA 98406. (Mb. #502).

SOME SHOW REPORTS

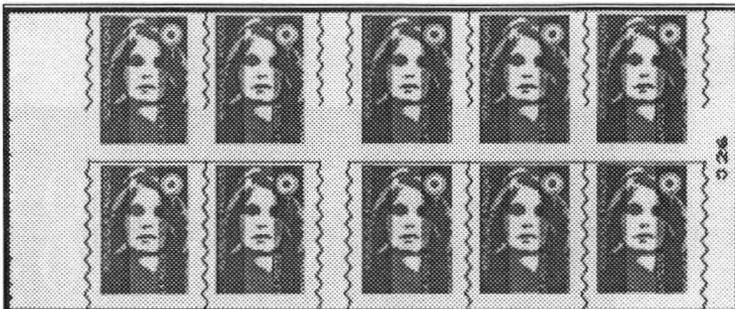
- **STAMPSHOW 97** (Milwaukee, August 1997): [Titles of exhibits given only for those on F&C subjects]: Prix d'Honneur to Scott Gallagher, Eliot Landau, to Shirley Gallagher for her "Tahiti and Surrounding French Polynesia," and to Dick Winter for his "U.S.-France Mails by Steamship"; Gold medals to Ed Grabowski for his "Guadeloupe: The Development and Use of Stamps for Regular Postage," to Earle Plyler and to Paul Larsen.
- **INDIPEX '97** (Indianapolis, September): Gold medal to Paul Larsen for "Ubangi-Shari-Chad 1900-1939."
- **PIPEX '97** (Spokane, WA, September): Silver medal to Bob Kinsley for his "The Conquest of Indo China 1861-1904."
- **Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition** (September): Reserve Grand Award and Gold medal to Ed Grabowski for his Guadeloupe exhibit; Vermeil medal to Norman Shachat (a member?) for "Philadelphia-French Mail, 1784, 1827-1874"; and Silver medal to Thomas Taylor.
- **AUTUMN STAMPEX** (London, September): Gold medal and Postal History Award to John Levett for "France--The Paris Commune."
- **SESCAL '97** (Los Angeles, October): Reserve Grand Award and Gold medal to Tom Siddens for "French Stamp Cancellations of the Classic Period--1849-1876"; Gold medals to Eliot Landau and Dave Herendeen; Vermeil medal to Stan Jersey for "New Hebrides Islands WWII Postal History"; Silver medal to Gene Tinsley.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

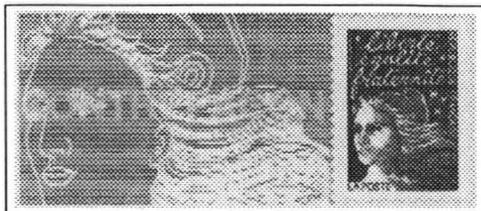
- Members John Lievsay and Steve Washburne have been named to the board of directors of Washington 2006, the next international philatelic exhibition to be held in the United States.
- The most popular stamps issued by France during 1996, as voted upon by some 90,000 subscribers to La Poste's new issues service, were the National Parks quartet issued 20 (22) April 1996.
- Shades of the 1994 U.S. "Legends of the West" sheet! Monaco's new (issued 3 July 1997) 78Fr-face sheetlet featuring twelve of the princes of the past 700 years, came out with the effigies and legends of Honoré III and Honoré IV reversed. But it was decided to neither recall the sheetlets nor print a corrected version.
- On the one hand, there are more dealers in France who accept VISA cards. On the other hand, there are more dealers in France who ship their catalogues via the ORDINAIRE service. This means that, because this a sea-mail service (sometimes by air, but only if space allows), their catalogues tend to arrive overseas well after the date of sale. That's being penny wise and pound foolish and can only result in a reduced clientele.
- Our former member, Bert Mendelsohn, has kindly sent me a two-page article from the December 27, 1930 issue of *The Stamps Collector's Fortnightly*. It is entitled "Indo-China--The Surcharged Provisional Issue of 1919," by A. Brun, and was translated from an earlier *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*. Inasmuch as there has been some recent interest expressed by members regarding Indo-China stamps and the relationship between French and Indochinese currency, I shall be glad to send copies for a business-letter-size SASE. (Editor's address in on page 2 of this number of our Journal).
- Also, and for another business-letter-size SASE, I can furnish a three-page article--consisting mostly of reproductions of railway markings--of the Convoyeurs de Réunion [Island], 1882-1956 [first and last years of the service]. This is from *Coll. Phil. et Marco.*, N° 116, October 1997.
- In recent years, the venerable term *cachet à date* (càd), for "date stamp," "dated cachet," etc. has been largely superseded by *timbre à date* (tâd). The latter is the term in use by the French postal administration and it has been adopted by a significant number of French dealers. *Timbre à date* has received the important support of Académicien J.-P. Alexandre in his 1996 work, *Dictionnaire Historique des Timbres & Griffes "Standard" de l'Administration Française des Postes, 1792-1914*, which was published by the firm of his fellow Académicien, J.-F. Brun. However and in rebuttal, in his catalogue for the 173rd Jamet-Baudot auction [for November 1997], J.-F. Baudot passionately pleads for the retention and continued use of *cachet à date* by and for philatelists, for that is the term used by our "grands anciens Doë, Gilbert, Dillemann, de Beaufond, Pothion, Noël, Salles!." *Chacun à son gout!* Personally, your editor, being himself "of the old school," will continue to use *cachet à date* whenever translating to and from the French.
- A number of Marianne de Luquet definitives were issued prematurely. Shown here is the 4,50F value with a 3 September 1997 slogan machine cancel from a Dijon branch P.O.



- The show program for OKPEX '96, edited by member Earle Plyler, received a Vermeil award from the American Philatelic Society's show program critique this past October.
- Prestamped window envelopes bearing the red Marianne de Briat indicia have been produced for the *Direction des Douanes* (Customs Service). They are slightly different from ordinary commercial window envelopes in that (in addition to bearing Customs Service corner cards) they are 115x224 cm and 115x229 cm in size, and the windows measure, respectively, 45x100 cm and 50x100 cm.
- In the previous number we reported the existence of open-face booklets of 10 stamps of the red, permanent-value Marianne de Briat "imperforate between." These booklets are now also known with partial perforations between stamps, se-tenant with normally perforated rows of five stamps, as per the illustration below. (Perforations are highlighted in ink to make them visible).



- The first press run of the new red, permanent-value Marianne de Luquet lasted only one day (or less), on 14 May 1997. (Second press run was 9-13 June 1997). One guess suggested for this short and already scarce first press run, of some 20,000 sheets, was to prepare a printing with enough lead time to get the stamps to people who service first-day covers. Not altogether very credible.
- A small quantity of the 5,00F peregrine falcon stamp of St. Pierre & Miquelon were sold over-the-counter there the early part of May 1997, before the rest of that stock could be recalled to France for destruction. The replacements, first sold officially on 28 May 1997, are somewhat deeper in hue and have more yellow than the recalled version (which could be considered as being officially unissued), which made them more acceptable to the local postal authorities (from *Timbroscopie*, September 1997).
- Alan McKanna, a director of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, has been elected its finance committee chairman.
- The first of the new preprinted envelopes bearing the Marianne de Luquet indicia have appeared (no issue date reported this far). The security box at left of indicia now depicts a white on blue version of Eve Luquet's design (see illustration); the word CONTREFAÇON (for counterfeit) continues to appear if the envelope is photocopied.



- Recently the French 6,70F Art stamps have been constantly outselling the 5,00 Art stamps. The reason is probably that the 6,70F value has a practical use (domestic 50-100 gm letters) whereas 5,00F only serves as a supplementary (add-on) value.
- A Gauthier Frères & Co. shipping-company local-post label, in red, issued 1856 and presumably one of only seven known copies, was offered in November 1997 for 4,000 Pounds Sterling (about \$6,700 U.S.).
- Ernst Cohn has been awarded the Postal History Society's Gold Medal for his many years of service to that society, as a director, president, and editor of their fine journal.

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from #249, October 1997, p. 132)

- **753.)** Through judicious cutting of the newly issued square postage due stamps in his care, a postal clerk at Bordeaux was able to make 11 stamps out of a vertical row of 10 stamps, thereby pocketing or selling the extra stamp. Known on cover between October 1862 and June 1863, with at first the 10c value and then the 15c (Figure 1). (From Capt. A. de La Mettrie, in *Le Mondes des Philatélistes*, N° 521, September 1997, and Jack Blanc, in *Feuilles Marcophiles*, N° 290, 1997).

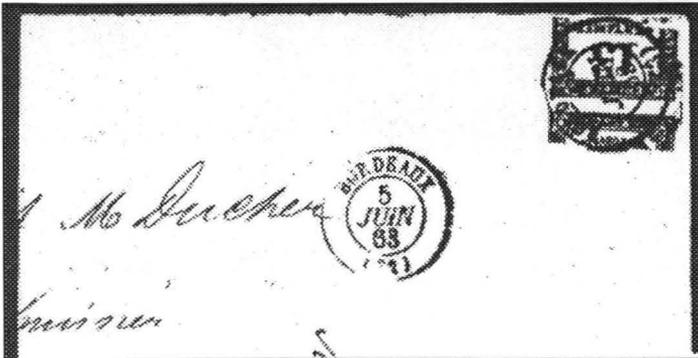


Figure 1.

- **754.)** Prior to the French Revolution and to the Tariff of 1 January 1792, a *simple* letter was one written on a single sheet of paper, and a double letter used two sheets. An envelope was taxed at first as a double letter (envelope plus single sheet inside) but later on, it was to be taxed at a rate intermediate between simple and double letters.

A packet (*paquet*) consisted of several letters wrapped together and conveyed to a single addressee, and it was taxed on the basis of its weight in ounces (*once*). Because the Tariffs of 1704 and 1759 stated that the tax per ounce on packets was four times that for a simple letter many authors have erroneously concluded that a pre-Revolutionary simple letter weighed $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce (or less). On the contrary, that particular weight was first codified (for a simple letter) only by the Tariff of 1 January 1792. From 1792 on, the term "simple letter" is a misleading one, and it is far more correct that it should be dropped and replaced by the term "single-weight" (or 1x) letter. (Abstracted from article by Michèle Chauvet in *Documents Philatéliques*, N° 152, 1997).

- **755.)** The following French stamps are officially classed as unissued (*non-emis*), according to J.-F. Brun (*Documents Philatéliques*, N° 152, 1997):
- 20c blue Cérés (Scott 4, Yvert 8)
 - 10c Lauré, overprinted 10 in blue (Sc 49, Yv 34)
 - 20c blue Sage (Sc 71, Yv 73)
 - 10F light brown LaRoche (Yv 261A)
 - 10F black-brown LaRoche (Yv 261B)
 - 2F Arch of Triumph, "type 1"
 - 25c Potter, rotary-press printing
 - 2,25F Cézanne, "type 1" (Yv 421A, 421B)
 - Liberté de Gandon, value tablet "A", in red
 - 2,20F Thermal Springs, value in red (Yv 2556a)
- **756.)** Just what is the **CFA** Franc, used in Reunion and other Southern Hemisphere possessions after the Second World War? It was created as currency during the war, for the benefit of Free France's African possessions, and worth at first 1.7 French (Metropolitan) francs, soon changed to 2 French francs. With the January 1960 changeover to "new francs," 1 CFA franc = 0,02 French francs or 2 French centimes. **CFA** stands for either **Communauté Financière Africaine**, or else for **Compte Franc Africain**.
- **757.)** The 20c imperforate Empire, type I (Scott 15, Yvert 14) is now known to exist watermarked **LACROIX FRERES**, in the same double-lined pattern as the much later 5c perforated Cérés (Sc 53 var., Yv 53e). This 1997 discovery, attributed to J.-F. Baudot, leads to numerous questions, including (1) why wasn't the discovery made until now, some 140 years after the 20c was issued? (2) why wasn't this Lacroix paper used in the 15 years or so interval between the issuance of the two stamps? (3) Could this just be some sort of tomfoolery?



NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

- "Catalogue Yvert et Tellier 1998; Tôme I: Timbres de France"; 448 pp.; 90Fr + postage, from usual sources. (Unlike the 1998 Cérés catalogue, the Yvert has not lowered prices drastically and/or "realistically"; numerous price changes from last year's, both up and down).
- J. Storch and R. Françon *Catalogue des Entiers Postaux de France et de Monaco*, 6th edition; 280 pp.; 280Fr + 40Fr postage and handling, from Editions Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris. (Completely revised "standard" catalogue of France and Monaco postal stationery, with many significant price increases; revamped and improved sections on the stationery of the two World Wars, on publicity *pseudo-entiers*, and on *prêt-à-poster* (pre-stamped postal stationery)).
- Loïc Marchat, *Récapitulatif des Flammes Commémoratives du Cinquantenaire du Débarquement et de la Libération*; 20 photocopied pages; available for 5 International Reply Coupons from the author, 2 Impasse Metral F-69100 Villeurbanne, France. (A review of the illustrated and slogan commemorative cancels produced for the 50th Anniv. of the Allied Landings and the Liberation of France; author offers to trade duplicate markings).
- Vincent Pothion, *Catalogue des Timbres "Grilles 1849-1852" (Paris-Province-Algerie, 1997)*; 90 pp.; with indices of rarity; 150Fr + 15Fr postage (in France only; inquire for mailing elsewhere) from the author at La Poste aux Lettres, 17 rue du Fg. Montmartre, F-75009 Paris.

- Yvette Mience, *Histoire des Postes du Rhône, Tôme I - Lyon: Ancien Régime*, 1997; ca. 500 pp., 23x16 cm; 280Fr (+ postage?), from Jacques André Editeur, 5 rue Bugeaud, F-69006 Lyon, France. (An exhaustive study of the history of the posts of Lyon, one of the most important cities of France with a post office dating back to 1491; numerous illustrations and reproductions of documents of the pre-1792 period).
- Theo Van Dam, *War Dates 1839-1859 / 1959-1979*; 1997; 110 pp., spiral bound, 8½x11", soft cover; with maps, bibliography and index; \$23.00 postpaid in US and Canada, \$25.00 elsewhere, from the author at P.O. Box 8809, Anaheim, CA 92812-0809. (A companion "before and after" volume to Van Dam's well-received "A Century of War Dates and More! 1859-1959").
- Jean L. Dutreix, *Voyage philatélique en Haut-Vienne*; 41 pp., illustrated; 48Fr (+ postage?) from the author, 4 allée Louis de Funès, F-87100 Limoges, France. (A strictly thematic view of this Department, based upon stamps, cancels, etc.).
- Bertrand Sinais, *Le service postal militaire français en Orient pendant la première guerre mondiale 1915-1923*; 274 pp.; 250Fr + 40F postage, payable to GAPS, c/o Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris. (The most detailed study of the French military posts in southeastern Europe and adjoining parts of Near East during and after World War I; being an updated revision of Sinais' doctoral dissertation).
- Alain Nicholas and Alex. Galinos, *Foreign Post Offices in Greece and their Cancellations to 1923*; 1996; 464 pp., hardbound; \$90.00 + \$2.00 postage (or 55 Pounds + 1 Pound postage in Great Britain), from James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 6484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus (by check or credit card). (The last word on the subject, including 1657 full-size illustrations of postal markings, recorded dates of use, and valuations; 486 different post offices noted, of which 95 were French; includes historical and geographical data and location maps; in English and Greek).
- [Updated, current copies of *The James Bendon Listing of Philatelic Publications* are available at no cost from the publisher, James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 6484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus; Fax + 357 5 311 228; e-mail: bendon@cylink.comm.cyl.
- J. L. Lievsay, *Guidelines for National Commissioners*; new edition, 14 pp.; for \$1.01 in mint U.S. stamps to: *Guidelines*, APS, P.O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803-8000. (Sound advice, not only for those thinking about becoming national commissioners at International shows, but also for exhibitors at International shows).
- *Dictionnaire des Postes aux Lettres*, new edition; 200Fr (+postage); inquiries to La Société des Amis du Musée de la Poste, 34 Blvd. de Vaugirard, F-75731 Paris Cedex 15.
- Stephane Strowski, *Estampilles postales françaises au XX siècle*; 320Fr + 30F postage, from Editions Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris. (Reprint or reedition of the 1933 work, with pamphlet giving current valuations).
- *Catalogue des empreintes des machines à affranchir*, 11th edition; 160 pp., 387 illustrations, over 1000 valuations; on 4-hole punched looseleaf sheets; 170Fr (post-paid in France), payable by intern. money order to ACEMA, CCP 2936-42E Rouen; inquiries and orders to Joël Leroux, 270, rue Watteau, F-76650 Petit-Couronne, France. (Updated--from 1990 edition--catalogue of French meter impressions, including the MOBs, with revised dates of use, pricing, and new discoveries).

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from #250, October 1997, p. 134)

France

- 15 September 1997: the remaining (0,10 to 10F) Marianne de Luquet ("du 14 Juillet") values, not 15 July as erroneously reported in previous number;
- 11 (13) October: 3,00F Domaine de Sceaux (Hauts-de-Seine Dept.);
- 16 (17) October: 3,00F European Region (Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg) [joint issue with Germany and Luxembourg];
- 18 (20) October: 4,50F "La Qualité"; 4,40F College of France;
- 25 (27) October: Heroes of sword and cape romances (A. Dumas' D'Artagnan, Th. Gautier's Capt. Fracasse, Zévaco's Pardaillant, Feval's le Bossu, Sir Lancelot, Rostand's Cyrano de Bergerac) 3,00F + 0,60F (x six); plus 21,60F booklet of the six stamps + two labels;
- 6 (10) November: Red Cross 3,00F + 0,60F; + 36F booklet;
- 8 (10) November: 3,00F Best Wishes [cat and mouse design];

- 15 (17) November: 20F airmail, Breguet XIV airplane;
- 20-21 November: 3,00F Protection of Mistreated Children;
- 22 (24) November: 3,00F Best Wishes [flying mailman design];
- 28 November (1 December): 3,00F Marshal Leclerc (1902-1947);
- 6 (8) December: 3,00F PhilexFrance 99 publicity;
- 13 (15) December: 4,40F Moutiers-d'Ahun (Creuze Dept. monastery);
- 15 January 1998: 3,00F Michel Debré;
- 24 (26) January: FRANCE 98 [World Cup Soccer]: 3,00F Bordeaux and 3,00F Saint-Denis; 30F souvenir sheetlet of the 10 issued FRANCE 98 World Cup stamps.

Withdrawals: 11 July 1997: 3,00F Economic and Social Council; 3,00F 50th Autumn Philatelic Salon; 3,80F UNESCO 50th Anniv.; 4,50F UNICEF 50th Anniv.; 4,50F Bicent. of Lycée Henry IV; 1996 Celebrities (Police-fiction detectives) 3,00F + 0,60F (x six) + 21,60F booklet of same; 5 September: 3,00F 50th Anniv. of the Overseas Depts.; 3,00F 150th Anniv. of French school at Athens; 3,00F + 0,60 Red Cross 1996 + 36F booklet of same; 10 October: 3,00F André Malraux; 3,00F National Library; 3,50F 50th Cannes Inter. Film Festival.

Andorra

- 13 (15) September 1997: the "Molas" reported in previous number are stream-side flour mills;
- 25 (27) October: 3,00F St. Iscle and St. Victoria + label + 15,50F St. Pierre d'Aixirival triptych;
- 22 November: triptych of three legends 3,00F + 3,00F + 3,80F (se-tenant);
- 28 November: 3,00F Monaco Inter. Philatelic Exhibition;
- 3 January 1998: 3,00F Per Molts Anys (juggler).

Withdrawals: 10 October 1997: 3,00F animal fair.

French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

- 1 January 1998: 1,00F rock crystal; 24F *Ranunculus moseley* (plant); 27F taupe shark; 2,70F gray-headed albatross; 29,20F ship "Le Cancalais"; 8F meteorologic radio station; 5,20F program "Epica Dôme C"; 16F royal Argos penguins; 3,00F eradication of rats and rabbits from St. Paul Island; 2,60F (x two) fisheries inspector[?]; 4,00F André Laclavère; 3,00F Etienne Peau.

French Polynesia

- 7 August 1997: 88F 50th Anniv. of Kon-Tiki Expedition.
- Withdrawals:** 10 September 1997: 25F fishing with stones; 1-5F touristic activities; 29F World Tourism Day; 68F, 84F, 86F deep-sea fishing; 46F Taipei 93 Expo.; 46F lagoon fishing; 120F 50 years of the Bora-Bora airstrip; 32F, 36F, 39F, 51F Birth Cent. of J. Boullaire; 30F sports festival; 70F Anniv. of the Australian contests; 140F volcanism conference; 150F Birth Cent. of Alain Gerbault; 70F, 80F, 90F, 100F painters of Polynesia; 200F Anniv. of E.F.P. Foundation; 22F, 26F, 51F Tahiti of yesteryears; 51F Hong Kong 94 Expo.; 51F "La Belle de Nuit"; 51F Chinese New Year (pig); 51F Chinese New Year (rat).

Mayotte

- 18 August 1997: Marianne du Luquet overprinted MAYOTTE: 2,70F, permanent value, 3,80F;
- 30 August: 3,50F face of a woman; 3,00F le Maki (lemur);
- September: 2,70F Mariama Salim;
- September: 3,00F Tsingoni Mosque;
- 29 November: 5,00F 20th Anniv. of Mayotte-Reunion air service; 3,00F coral and fish.

Monaco

- 8 September 1997: Paintings 8F (François Grimaldi) and 9F (Saints Peter and Paul);
- 5 (6) October: Expansion of the Monaco territory, sheetlet of four 5,00F stamps;
- 20 October: 6,70F Inter. Whaling Commission;
- 28 November: souvenir sheet (imperf. block) commemorating the Monaco Inter. Phil. Exhibition [sold only with show catalog]; souvenir sheet of two 9F stamps for 10th anniv. of Marcel Kroenlein's arboratum; 5F 850th Anniv. of Moscow; 3,80F Princess Charlotte;
- 29 November: children's art commemorating 700 years of the Grimaldis 4F and 4,50F; 4,90F (x two) for 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics; 8F Prince Albert I 150th Birth Anniv.;
- 30 November: 7,50F 750th Anniv. of creation of parish of Monaco; 4,40F 31st Inter. Flower Competition; 5,20F painter J.-L. David.

[the November 1997 schedule may be subject to later modification]

Withdrawals: 28 July 1997: walnut tree precancel; exotic garden booklet; flowers

booklet; Inter. Olympics Committee booklet; Monégasque annals miniature sheet; 6F Miséricorde; China block; oceanographic rulers set; Monégasque telephone office set; 10F Museum of Stamps and Money (also the block); Red Cross set; the four seasons of the blackberry bush; all other commemoratives issued in mid-October 1996.

New Caledonia

- 13 August 1997: 95F Cagou bird definitive;
 - 22 September: 95F early view of Port-de-France;
 - 20 (22) September: 65F and 65F horse racing in New Caledonia;
 - 22 (23) September: 150F 50th Anniv. of election of first Melanesians.
- Withdrawals:** 30 September 1997: Louis Brauquier; Cent. of arrival of Indonesians; 50th Anniv. of UNICEF; Pacific sculptures (woman); Melanesian dances; 7th Pacific Arts Festival; Painters of the Pacific; ordination of first Melanesian priests; Cent. of invention of radio-telephonics; regional views (Salon d'Automne); Noël 1996.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 13 August 1997: Vista from Diamant to Cap aux Basques 15,50F + label + 3,00F triptych; Marianne de Luquet 2,70F, permanent-value, and 3,80F, overprinted for the islands;
- 13 October: 3,80F the Post Office building; Marianne de Luquet o,10 o,20 o,50 3,50F 4,40F 10F, overprinted for the islands.

Withdrawals: Fall(?) 1997: 3,80F Customs House.

Wallis & Futuna

- 22 September 1997: 300F airmail, sunset over lagoon;
- 15 October: Karate at Wallis Island.

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our Editor has written on several occasions regarding the difficulty and expense involved in making payments between the United States and a foreign country. For most Americans this is no problem: the only time they have to deal with foreign currency is when they are travelling in a foreign country. Over the years, I have used a variety of means for paying my European auction bills: the only really attractive system is the one now used by the firms in Greece: they convert the bill to U.S. dollars right on the invoice, and accept my personal check. A few years ago I carefully obtained a foreign currency draft from my local branch of one of the larger banks, and then had it bounce because they had drawn it against a closed account. That bank has since been taken over by a larger one, which soon demonstrated they were not interested in small individual accounts in Sussex County. I now use a truly local bank whose arrangements for personal accounts are quite attractive. However, they clearly are not interested in handling foreign payments, so their fees for foreign cables & drafts are so high that no one will use them. I now buy my foreign drafts when I go into New York City.

FCPS is affected by this foreign exchange problem with regard to dues payments. The bank fee for collection of a foreign check is generally higher than the amount of our dues, so we have no choice but to refuse to accept payment in that form. We know this creates a problem for our foreign members, but the Society has no alternative. Probably the most convenient way for a foreign member to pay dues, is to have a friend or correspondent in this country make the remittance for him. If this is not possible, there are some options which will at least reduce the frequency of dues payments, if not make them easier. Although we have no official option for paying more than one year's dues, the Corresponding Secretary has assured me that he will accept payment for two or three years at once. If our members in another country know each other, perhaps they can get together and send one consolidated remittance; just be clear how much money is being paid for each member.

For those who have my phone number, the area code is now 973.

With my best belated wishes for the New Year,

--Dick Stevens

MEETING OF 2 SEPTEMBER 1997

Introducing the new season was yours truly, with a presentation entitled "Grabowski's Guadeloupe — Where it's at; where it's going." It has been more than two years since I presented this collection to the group, and there have been some major changes. After much consideration and soul searching, I have decided to remove all of the stamps from the exhibit and go the postal history route. A first outing as five frames at ISTANBUL 96 brought a large vermeil, and last month's run at STAMPSHOW at nine frames brought a Gold and Postal History Society medal. Possibly I am close to target. What I have done in the exhibit is to trace the development of the use of stamps for regular postage in Guadeloupe from the 1851-1853 trial of the use of stamps from metropolitan France through the Group Type (Ah! My favorite issue once again), all via covers focused as postal history. Highlights of the exhibit include a fair number of high frankings with the General Issues, a good representation of printed matter throughout, ditto for military mail, a number of covers through the British Agency and mail from most of the smaller post offices. After the General Issues section is a section devoted to use of the provisional issues (over-printed on the General Issues), and a strong conclusion with the Group Type.



Figure 1.

Among the rarest of printed matter rates to France during the period of the Eagles use is that

of 13c. Typically one sees the 12c rate which Bob Stone rates as 'very rare' from Guadeloupe, but even more difficult is the 13c rate which was in effect from July 7, 1862 until December 31, 1863. Bob rates this as 'extremely rare' because of its short duration of use. Figure 2 is an example of the 13c rate franked with two 5c and three 1c Eagles posted from Pointe-à-Pitre on September 26, 1863 to Bordeaux. Of the three examples of this rate that I have seen, this is possibly the finest. Keeping with printed matter, I conclude with a sheet of prices current posted from Pointe-à-Pitre on May 16, 1871 to Demerara, British Guiana via the British Agency in Guadeloupe. This piece (Figure 3)

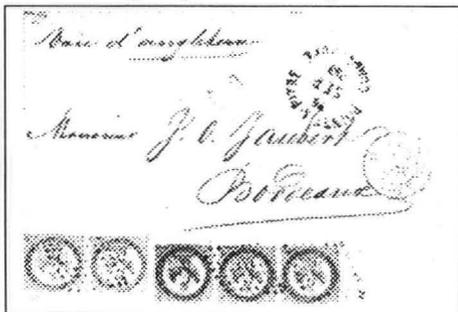


Figure 2.

is franked with two pairs of 1c Eagles to prepay the local 4c printed matter rate. It bears a



Figure 3.

later), and hopefully to France in '99 to see how the exhibit really flies.

and a May 22nd Demerara arrival on the reverse. It was charged 1 sh due on arrival as indicated by the blue manuscript notation on the front. According to Dubus, et. al. (p. 81), the only known example of this franking via the British Agency is one 1c overfranked by 5c which is pictured. It was sold in a Behr sale a few years ago, and I was not able to get it. Just as well, as the one I now have is unrecorded, properly franked and in much better shape.

So that's my update on Guadeloupe. Where to now? Next is the Philadelphia Show, possibly BALPEX in 1998 (Dick Stevens will have more to write about that

--Ed Grabowski

MEETING OF OCTOBER 7

It was our pleasure to welcome Ed Epstein this evening. Ed is a member of the Collectors Club and a regular speaker at our FCPS meetings. Tonight's topic was French ship mail, and Ed traced the development of the French Packet Service from its earliest beginnings to the modern era, with an emphasis on the latter. Ed noted that the British, under Cunard, were the first to create a packet service to provide ready communication amongst its colonies and businesses and the home offices in England. France felt the same need, and on June 23, 1847, the French transatlantic service began. The first ship, the "Philadelphie," had but two journeys between 1847-1848, after which the service was terminated due to inefficiency. Mail to France was then shipped via Cunard and Southampton, with a local connection to the continent. In 1857-1858 French Transatlantic service began in earnest, and the French service expanded to cover all corners of the earth. A number of pieces from this early period were shown.

Thereafter, Ed focused on his first love, the Transatlantic ships and all of their memorabilia. Examples of the cachets, photos and publicity cards of the various ships were shown, with emphasis on the more modern and famous ships such as the "Normandie" and "Ile de France." The French Transatlantic service finally terminated in 1974 when competition with the airlines simply became too formidable.

--Ed Grabowski

NEW MEMBERS

- 3150 SURACE, RONALD, 4160 Shady Point Drive, Moorpark, CA 93021. (General France: Mint - Used - On Cover.)
 3151 TIERNEY, GERALD W., 1360 York Avenue, Apt. 2-B, New York, NY 10021 - 4025. (General Collector: All Issues. Classics 1849-1876: Used - On Cover. Modern France: Used - On Cover. French Community: Offices Abroad. Andorre. Monaco. Saar. French Equatorial Africa. Gabon.)
 3152 DAWDY, DAVID R., 3055 23rd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94132. (Regular Issues: Used - On Cover. Alsace--Lorraine. Cancellations.)
 3153 WINCKLER, DR. PAUL A., 49 Hammond Road, Glen Cove, NY 11542-3415. (General France: Mint - Used. Classics 1849-1876: Used. Modern France: Mint. St. Pierre Et Miquelon.)
 3154 SMITH, MICHAEL R., 176 Reed Road, Sparta, MO 65753. (General France: Mint - Used. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used. All Colonies And Territories. St. Pierre Et Miquelon.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2254 TYLER, JERRY, 1341 Gloria Dr., Hollister, CA 95023-5809.
 1314 LaBLONDE, CHARLES J., 2940 Underwood Point, #5, Colorado Springs, CO 80920-7259.
 3084 BIELENSTEIN, CARLOS, 1039 Hardee Road, Coral Gables, FL 33146-3300.
 3117 DELESPESE, THIERRY F., USDELMO - NATO, PSC 80, Box 46, APO AE 09724.
 2954 KARSEBOOM, GLENN, 31680 Mayfair Lane, Beverly Hills, MI 48025-4034. (City Name Change)
 1816 LA CHANCE, LEON J., (Change Zip Code To: 21804).
 3042 REEDY, GERALD W., Stateside, P.O. Box 1036, Evart, MI 49631.
 406 VENGROVE, CHARLES F., 1013 Stone Stack Dr., Bethlehem, PA 18015-5053.
 2845 VARGHA, LOUIS A., La Rhode USSAC, F-19270 Donzenac, France.
 3132 WENZ, PROFESSOR ERNST G., VILSECK A.S.T., CMR 411-Box 583, APO AE 09112. (Address incomplete in previous number of Journal).
 3079 GROOM, MALCOM, P.O. Box 76, Rosny Park 7018, Tasmania, Australia.
 2998 WILCOCK, DAVID C., Via Traversari No 27 INT 9, 00152 Rome, Italy.
 2112 HOGLE, REID., P.O. Box 64248, University Place, WA 98464.
 1771 CARLETON, JOHN C., #7 N. Brentwood Blvd., Suite 311, Clayton, MO 63105-3757.

RESIGNATIONS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 790 DURANT, RICHARD | 3060 GARFINKEL, MARTIN |
| 3112 GUNN, THOMAS A., JR. | 3035 LIFE, PAGE |
| 2978 MARTIN, TOM | 2583 RAPP, JANET L. C. |
| 2354 RHODES, MRS. JACQUELINE E. | 2841 SPONGBERG, STEPHEN A. |

DECEASED

- 358 CHAMPLAIN, CHARLES E. (deceased in 1992)