



France & Colonies



Philatelist



Seldom-seen mail from very small post office at Precheur, Martinique (note manuscript "Precheur le 11 Oct. 1862" in upper right) to Paris; 50c rate zia British packet paid by 40c and 10c Colonies Eagles. Lacking any sort of cancelling device, Precheur resorted to manuscript cancellations. Lozenges of dots killers applied at St. Pierre prior to boarding ship. (Lot 3070 of Cérès December 1997 auction; sold for 10,511 Francs, which Ed Grabowski considers as being "a good buy.")

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GUSTAVE ZEDE AND THE UNREALIZED DREAM OF AIRMAIL TO PARIS DURING THE SIEGE, 1870-1871-- A PRELIMINARY LOOK

by Ralph R. Barracano (FCPS #2807)

Hubert Cappart in the A.I.H.P. Bulletin 7 of November 1996 reproduced an amazing, if I may borrow that term from Ernst Cohn, *pli confié*, flown on "Le Fulton," dated 29 October 1870 from Gustave Zédé to his wife, forwarded from Brest to Tours, at last arriving (1 or 3) November 1870 (Figure 1).

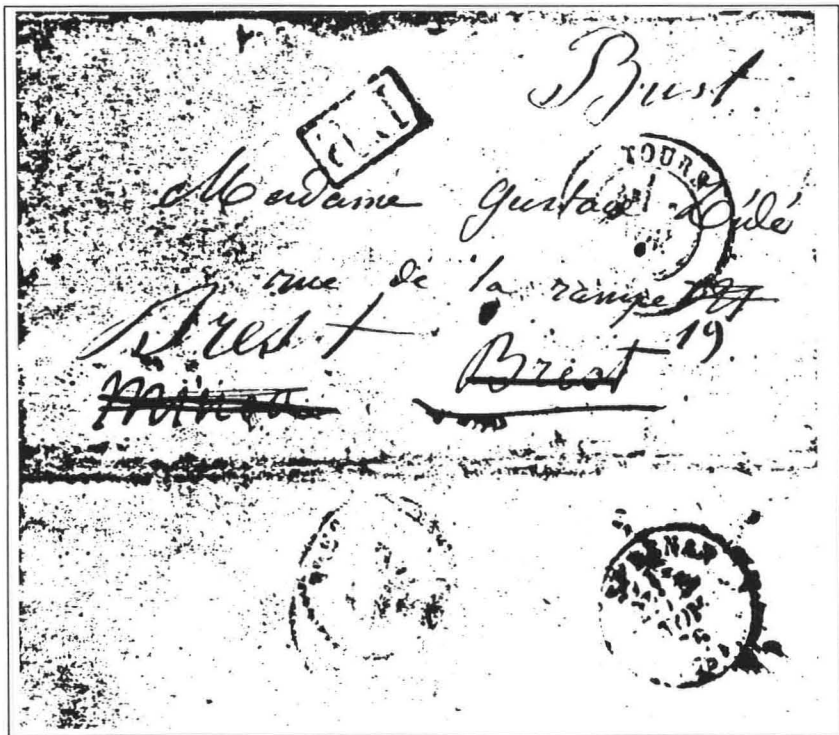


Figure 1. The Zédé letter of October 1870 (Dolfuss, 1976; Cappart, 1996).

Included are various technical details, most importantly drawings about his and Dupuy de Lôme's plans to construct the world's first dirigible (Figure 2). This was in no small part amazing because of the considerable probability of the letter falling into enemy hands. Like all plans to construct a powered *aller et retour* air ship from Paris, this one failed on numerous design particulars, not the least of which was the engine; eight strong bodies, always sailors in these schemes, yoked to the propellers in two shifts of four (Figure 3). In spite of its Jules Verneque improbability, Gen. Trochu (military commander of Paris defenses) promised 40,000 Francs for the project, which compelled Nadar to resign from the *Compagnie des Aérostats* and publish *Les Ballons en 1870 - Ce qu'on aurait pu faire, ce qu'on a fait* ("We did what we could") blasting the government's (and in particular De Lôme's) role in wasting wartime resources on the improbable and the impossible.

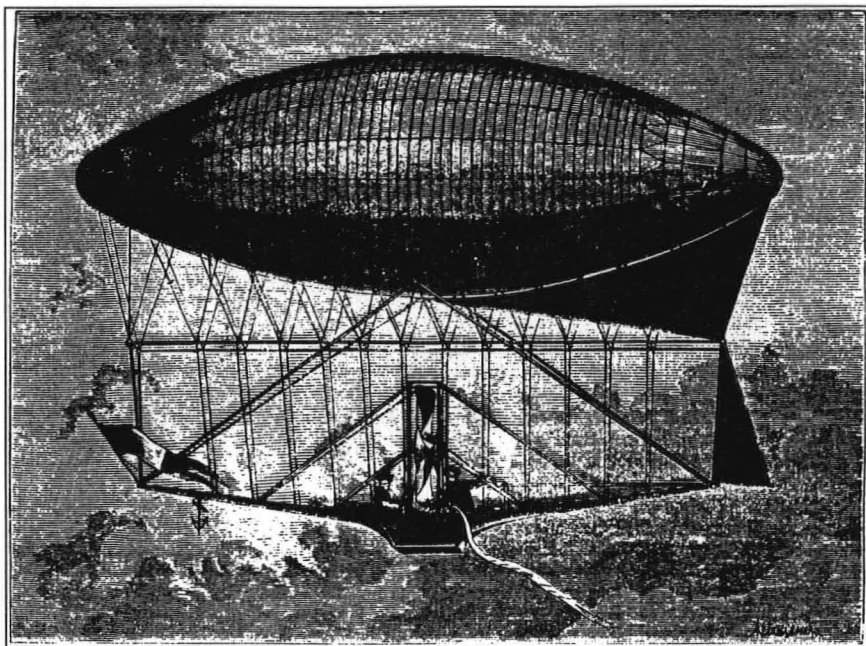


Figure 2. An early Dupuy de Lôme dirigible project (Dolfuss 1976).

My own Zédé letter, also to his wife, Blanche, was written 20 September 1870, arriving at Brest 22 October (Figures 4 and 5), thus establishing that Mme. Zédé departed Brest for Tours between 22 October and some days before the 3rd of November. Not knowing about balloon mail, Zédé speculated as to whether or not his letter could get through the lines. Since there is nothing about air ships in the letter, we might tentatively conclude that the dirigible project, under the auspices of the Commission to Study the Means of Defense under the Public Works Minister, like so many others, came into being after the Siege had begun.

In the September letter Zédé emits a *cri de coeur*, eloquently declaiming against the wages - and masters - of war: "This war is horrible, killing by every means possible, a bunch of poor devils led to the slaughter by a caste which treats them like mere ammunition; and who are indifferent to the lives of the soldiers as long as their pride is satisfied. When I think that it is this for which I expend my intelligence instead of for the good of all." Here is the conflict, common to many of us, between what the naval architect, later the "father of the French submarine" did for a living and what he deeply believed. In the next sentence he seems almost a French Richard III, "We have a superb sun which seems to rejoice in all our disasters" though not, as in Richard's case, a sun of York. He seems to have been a sensitive man in a brutal realm of war. Yet Gustave Zédé was killed in an 1895 explosion while pushing back the frontiers of submarine warfare. This and other information comes from a 1976 article by Charles Dollfus in *Icare*, (N° 77, p. 52-61).

The two letters raise several questions of historical and perhaps philatelic interest. In September Zédé concluded without further explanation "I hope you will succeed with the government through Ernest." (*J'espère que tu*

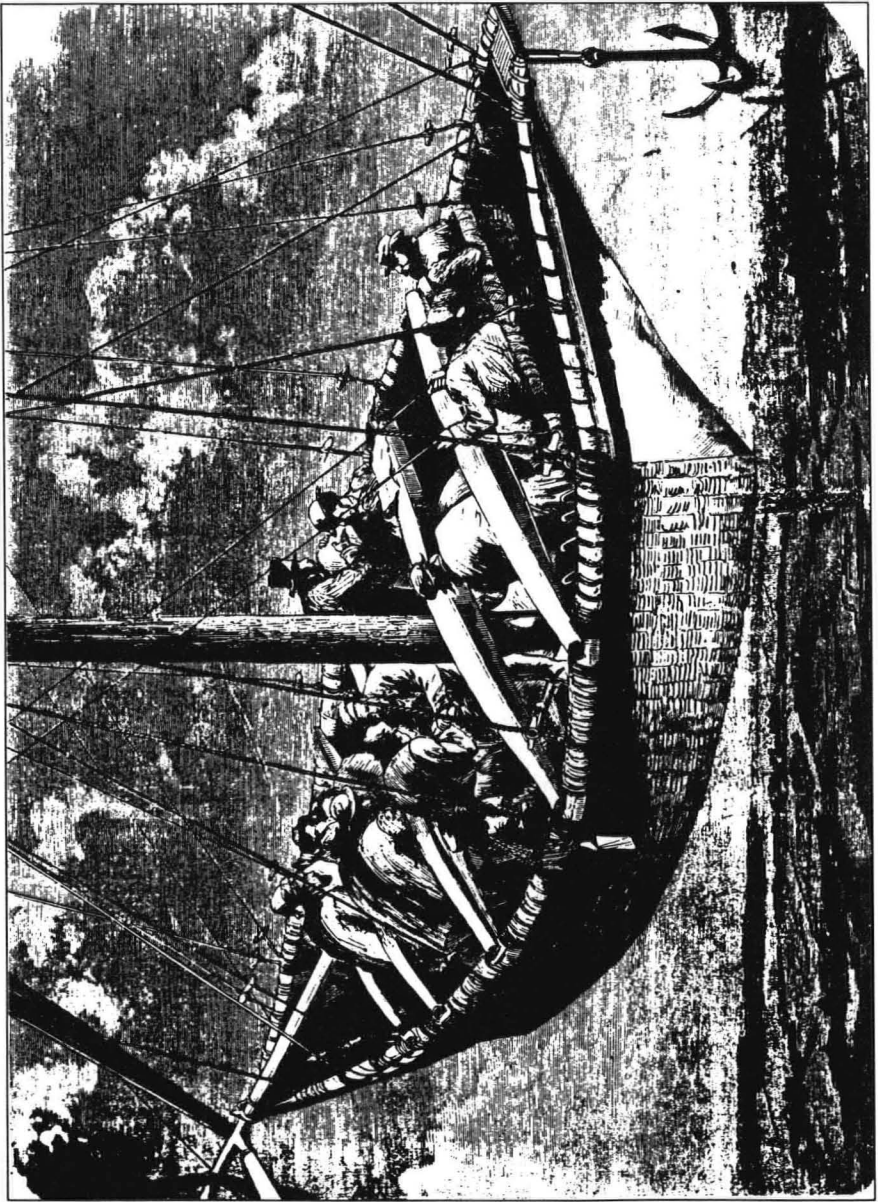


Figure 3. Fantasy rendering of the "power plant" of an 1872 Dupuy de Lôme dirigible project (Dolfuss, 1976).

auras réussi pour la Constituante auprès d'Ernest.") In the October letter, Zédé urges his wife to show the plans to Mr. and Mrs. Faveau, among others. Who were Ernest and the Faveaus (or as Sherlock Holmes would ask, were they one and the same?) and what precisely was Mme. Zédé's relationship to



Figure 4.
The Zédé
letter of 20
September
1870.

the government? Why did she move to Tours, then the seat of the wartime government? We must suspect that she was acting as some kind of liaison between Zédé and one or more of the ministries there. Yet from what we know all the approvals, for example, for funding, were available in Paris. And why did Zédé put such details into the October letter likely to fall into enemy hands, when he had been so circumspect in September, cryptically mentioning Ernest and the government without other clues. Did Zédé believe that a *pli confié* would invariably escape enemy hands?

While in Paris not too long ago, I determined to unlock at least some of

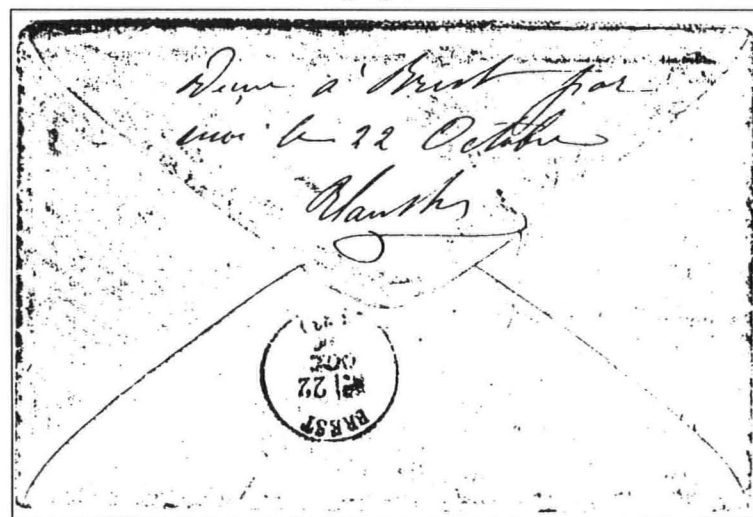


Figure 5.
Back of
Figure 4,
showing
Brest,
22 Oct. 70
arrival
backstamp
and writ-
ten nota-
tion
"received
at Brest by
me on 22
October,
[signed]
Blanche.

these riddles. At the *bibliothèque* of the 6th Arrondissement on Rue de Rennes, I learned that Zédé was called the father of the French submarine, and that his crowning achievement was the battery-powered submarine *Le Gymnote*

("the Electric Eel!") on active service from 1886 to 1908. At the exquisite 17th century headquarters of the *Archives Nationales* [AN] in the Marais district, under the new rules, I was not allowed to enter as I had in past years. Under the (not entirely wrongheaded) impression that I was a journalist, five or six substations of the AN were contacted all over Paris. After some hours and numerous returned calls from various parts of the French archival empire, it was determined that the personal papers of Gustave Zédé, if they existed, and much of the rest of the primary documentation of the siege, were in transit to the AN's new glass towers where they are to be housed. Deeper Historical excavations would have to wait. Would I please come back in a year or two? Which is something I very definitely plan to do. Hopefully, this tale is "to be continued."

ANOTHER FAKE "POSTES SERBES" MARKING

by Richard M. Stevens (FCPS #1867)

Some years ago I illustrated several fakes of the **POSTES SERBES** marking used by the Ministerial Office of the Serbian government-in-exile at Corfu from 1916 to 1918 [*Opinions II*, The Philatelic Foundation, New York, NY, 1984]. Recently another, potentially dangerous fake has appeared on two covers offered by a prominent Swiss firm in their June 1997 auction. Both covers were pictured in the catalog and the following description is based on those illustrations. According to the *Prices Realized*, both lots were sold "as is."

In both cases genuine covers from the extensive correspondence sent to Consul Christian Voegeli at Weesen, Switzerland, were enhanced with added stamps and markings. The most obvious fake is a double-weight registered cover sent from the Serbian Military Cooperative at Salonika. It originally bore a three-color franking of a 5 centimes, 10 centimes, and two 25 centimes stamps, cancelled by the French Trésor et Postes 504 circular date stamp. To this were added 50 centimes, 1 franc, and a pair of 35 centimes stamps, each tied only by POSTES SERBES markings. The latter markings were also applied to the original stamps. There are three obvious problems with this cover: the postage of 2.85 francs is much too high and does not match any known rate. I have seen no other cover with a stamp cancelled only by the POSTES SERBES marking. With the possible exception of the dubious "Type II," the POSTES SERBES marking was only used on mail from Corfu.

The other item is a little less obvious. It is a wrapper currently bearing seven 5 centimes, a pair of 30 centimes, and a 50 centimes stamp, all apparently tied by strikes of the Ministarska postmark. There is a genuine POSTES SERBES marking in the center of the wrapper, with an old French dealer's pencil notation "*griffe rare*" (rare marking). The 30 centimes and 50 centimes stamps are tied by fake POSTES SERBES markings, and there are two POSTES SERBES markings on the 5 centimes stamps which are probably fake. It is impossible to be sure from the photograph how many stamps are original, but I feel sure the pair of 30 centimes stamps has been added. Both the pair and the 50 centimes stamp may be in spots from which 5 centimes stamps have been removed. None of the Ministarska postmarks are clear enough in the photograph to distinguish which are genuine and whether they really match from the stamps onto the cover.

I have reproduced two of the POSTES SERBES markings from the wrapper. The first, which I believe to be genuine, is the one struck in the center of the cover (Figure 1). The second is the one on the pair of 30 centimes stamps

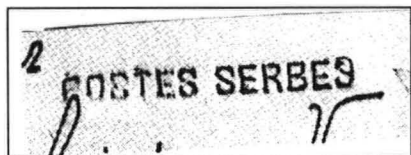


Figure 1.

at the top and bottom. To me, the most obvious problem with the fake markings on these covers is in the position of the middle bar on all the "E"s. On the genuine handstamp, the middle bar on all three "E"s usually appears to be closer to the bottom bar, and is never closer to the top bar. Also the middle bar generally appears to be at least a little shorter than the top and bottom bars. On these fake markings, the middle bars are closer to the top bars, and generally the same length as the other bars.

(Figure 2). The POSTES SERBES handstamp were considerably during its two years of use, particularly resulting in a flattening of the letters



Figure 2.

CANCELLING DEVICES MADE OR MODIFIED AT THE LOCAL POST OFFICE

by Laurence H. Lambert (FCPS #1394)

Most of us are aware that several varieties or sub-varieties of stamps, particularly of the Colonies, were created locally. These include stamps being bisected, as well as overprints and surcharges, some doubled or inverted. Several of these local manipulations were not needed, and were perhaps against postal regulations of the time. However, they have a legitimacy among philatelists of today because they created varieties which exist. We see them, at least in the catalogs, or know of them.

Perhaps few of us are aware that, to some extent, France and Colonies cancelling devices were also made, tampered with, and modified locally. From such tampering, some unique cancels have come down to us.

In my studies of Algeria cancellations, I have discovered four for which the cancelling devices were almost certainly locally made or modified. Perhaps with a sharp eye, collectors of France and of the other Colonies will be able to spot, or have spotted already, some locally made or modified cancels as well.

In the discussions of these cancels following, the reader should keep in mind that the assertions and conclusions drawn are all my own. I have not seen any literature on locally made or modified cancels, nor have I read where any author has said that any of the cancels treated in this article were locally made.

Local #1

In 1860, the village of PONT DE L'ISSER was given a small post office of the class *distribution entrepôt*. Its standard identifier was a straightline cachet (*griffe linéaire*) without any date stamp. Sometime after 1860 and until 1877, it used the Figure 1 cachet, in addition to the *griffe linéaire*. The canceler was made intaglio, and perhaps was intended to be used like a seal. At any rate, it was used on mail. During the period of its use, there were more than thirty *distribution entrepôts* in existence in Algeria. There is no record of any of them having a similar cancel. Thus we must conclude that the cachet



Figure 1. This unique cachet was surely locally manufactured for use at Pont de l'Isser.

was not a standard type, and was not issued by the postal authorities. Therefore, this unique postal marking was manufactured locally.

Local #2

The name of MIRABEAU first appeared on a postal cancel in 1888. The partial cancel in Figure 2 is dated 1901. By enlarging the cancel (Figure 3),



Figure 2. Partial strike of a cancel of Mirabeau, made from a standard canceling device which was locally modified, probably within the post office. The modifications were somewhat crude, as we can see in Figure 3.

we can see that the dots in the outer circle are not all the same size and shape. Further, we can see that all the dots are not fully disconnected. The arrows in Figure 3 point to V-shaped grooves which leave some of the dots only partially separated.

By comparison with a standard cancel of the same period (Figure 4, right), it is easy to see what has happened. The postmaster or a clerk has taken a file, or other cutting instrument,

and reduced each standard dash to two dots. In Figure 4 the existing cancel is at the left; in the center, I have retouched the outer cir-



Figure 3. The cancel of Figure 2 has been enlarged, so that the irregularities resulting from local tampering can better be seen. The arrows point to V-shaped grooves cut in some of the dashes of the outer circle, to form irregularly shaped dots that were not fully disconnected.



Figure 4. At left is the existing cancel of Mirabeau. In the center is a reconstitution of the original cancel before the canceller was modified. At right is an actual standard cancel of the period. The cancels at center and right could easily be modified to produce the one at left. There can be little doubt that Mirabeau's original cancel was like the one at right.

that the post office at Mirabeau was issued a standard canceller similar to the one in Figure 4 (center). By 1901, it had been locally cut or filed, to look like Figure 2 and Figure 4 (left).

Local #3

The post office at GASTU acted similarly to the post office at Mirabeau in cutting or filing their cancelling device, to provide a circle of dots instead of the standard dashes. Figure 5 shows an actual cancel. Figure 6, left, is that cancel enlarged, to show that the dots are not all of the same size. Obviously, the cutting on each individual dash was not always perfectly centered, leav-

cle to show how the cancel would have looked before modification; and at right is an actual standard cancel of the period. The only conclusion to be reached is



Figure 5. This cancel of Gastu is from a locally modified canceller.

circle of the canceller so that it became dashed-line, and was thus an acceptable distribution canceller, though non-standard. It could perhaps be called a "provisional." The modified cancel is shown in

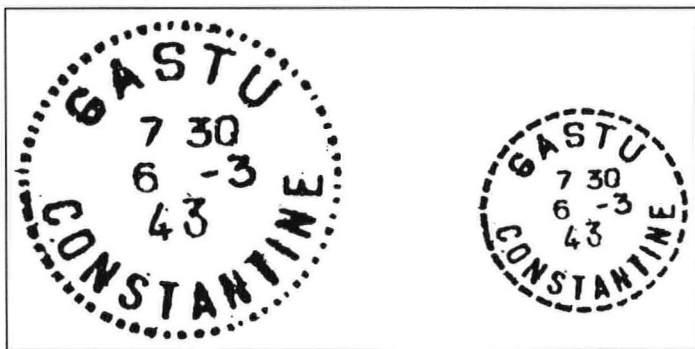


Figure 6. At left is the Figure 5 cancel, enlarged to show the irregularities resulting from local tampering. At the right, the cancel has been retouched, by penciling in the part that was removed during tampering, so that it looks like the standard original cancel before tampering. The dots in the circle as shown in Figure 5 have simply been reconnected.



Figure 7. The standard cancel of Palat as a *recette* in 1902.

Figure 8, hand-drawn, because my copy of the cancel is a partial, and on a stamp on which it cannot reproduce well. The dashed outer circle is approximate only, as the author has not seen it in its entirety, and Langlois and Bourselet's illustration is partially in error. At any rate, the unique cancel of Palat came about by local modification.



Figure 8. The standard cancel of Palat as a *recette* (Figure 7) was modified locally by making the outer circle dashed. This occurred when Palat was reduced in class (demoted), and could no longer use the cancel.

To all appearances, none of the cancels except the Palat had any justification whatever for having been made or tampered with, and were apparently motivated only by the desire to be different. The cancel of Pont de l'Isser is rare, as it was used a long time ago by a small

post office (155 inhabitants in the village in 1878). The other three are uncommon, Palat more so, but obtainable.

Illustrations are all from my own collection, except for two. The cancel of Pont de l'Isser (Figure 1) comes from Ab der Halden and de Beaufond, and the cancel of Palat (Figure 7) is by courtesy of Mr. Claude Bosc.

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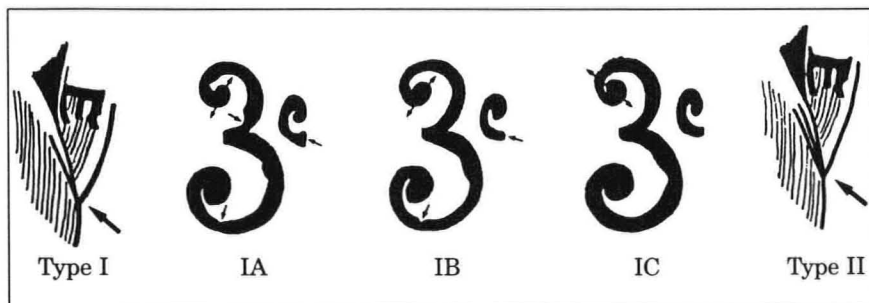
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 M. Langlois and V. Bourselet: "Les Oblitérations des Bureaux de Poste de l'Afrique du Nord"; Amiens, France, 1930.
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[Editor's note: This original little article proves that discoveries remain to be made--via careful observation--in whatever specialty one may have.]

TYPES AND SUBTYPES

3c Blanc

Types IA and IB, for flat-plate sheet stamps, and IC, for stamped wrappers, are difficult to tell apart. IA has a notch in lower loop of the 3, and the lower extremity of the c of value is triangular. IB also shows the notch, but lower extremity of the c is thin and somewhat pointed. In IC, lower loop of 3 is normal and upper loop more recurved than in IA and IB; the c is as per IB. All orange-red and red stamps are type IA; all IA stamps are on normal, pre-war paper. Only IB is found on GC (wartime, poor quality) paper, but IB also is found on prewar and postwar papers. Precancels are on IB stamps on post-war paper. The later-produced rotary-press stamps are of Type II.



FRENCH 19th CENTURY HANDSTAMPED POSTAGE DUE STAMPS

In response to recent requests, we reproduce here the tax markings used in France, on unpaid and short paid mail, throughout a large part of the mid-to late-19th Century (at least into the 1880s). They are expressed in *décimes* (one *décime* = 10 centimes). During at least part of this period, the *décime* was worth 2 U.S. cents.

Manuscript due markings usually closely followed these models.

The markings shown here (Figures 1-4) were taken from various published sources of yesteryears, and show variations in the markings. Other variant forms do exist.

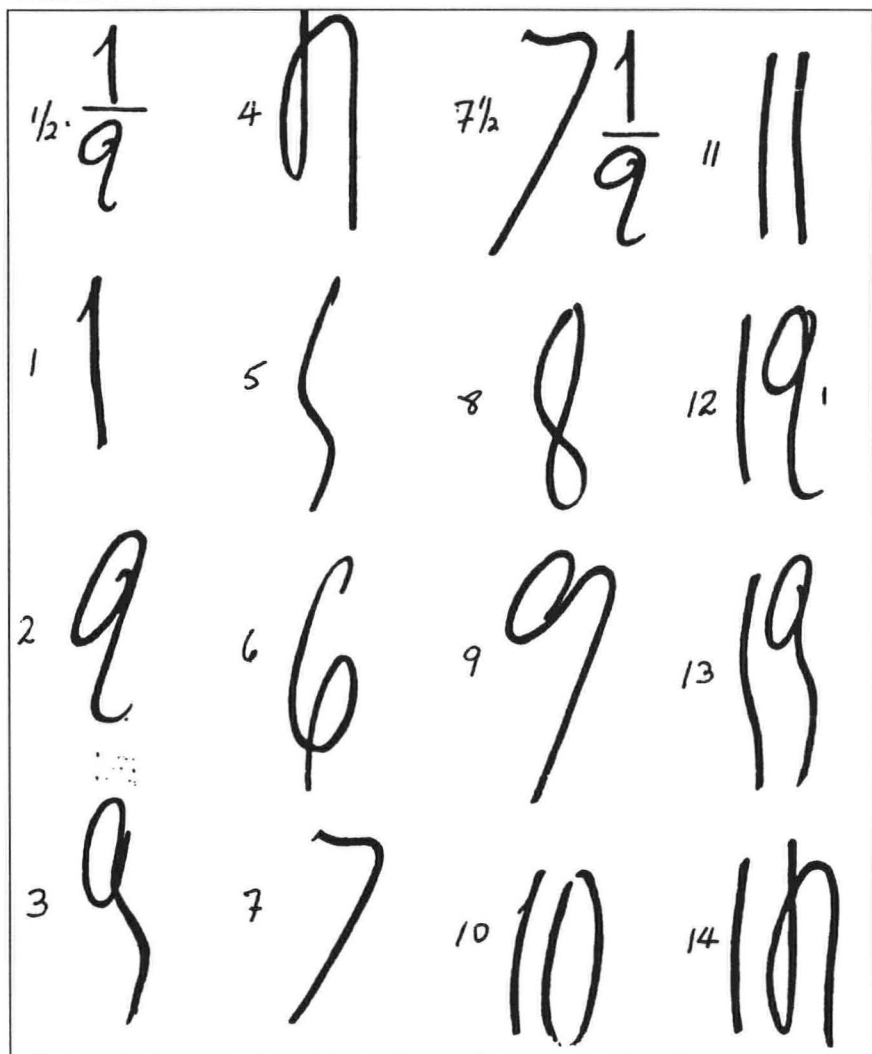


Figure 1.

Five francs are equal to 50 *décimes*, expressed as 5 and 0. Anything beyond this unusually high tax (for those days) was expressed as shown in Figure 5. [Top row: 5F 1 décime, 6F 1 décime, 7F 1 décime, etc.; bottom row 10F 1 décime, 11F 1 décime, etc.] --S. J. Luft

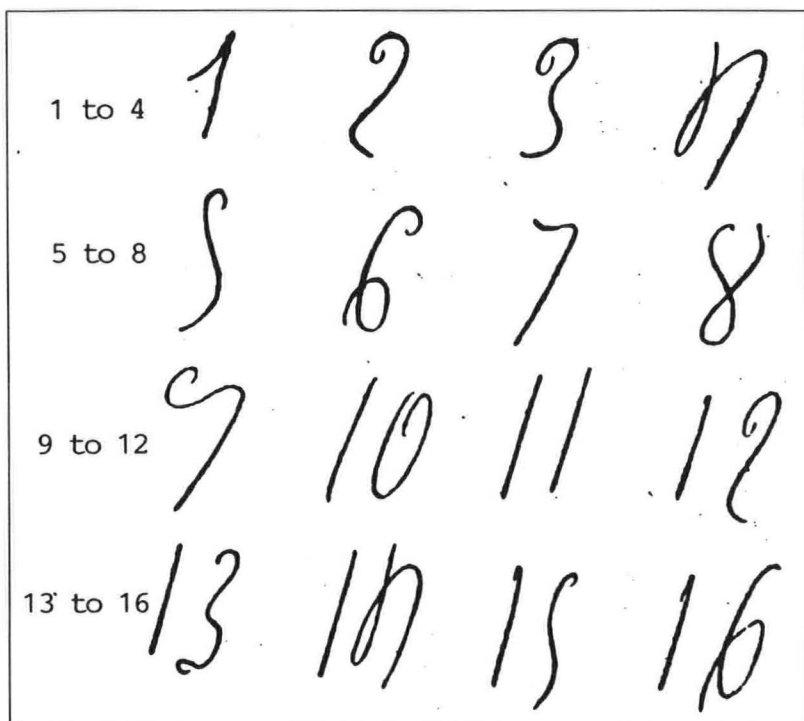


Figure 2.

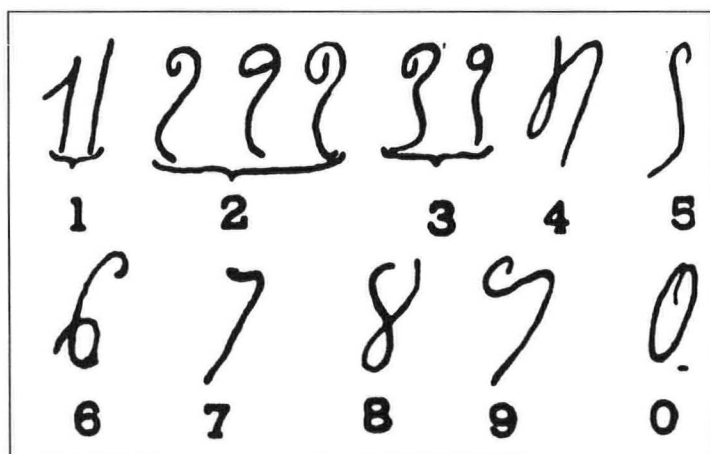


Figure 3.

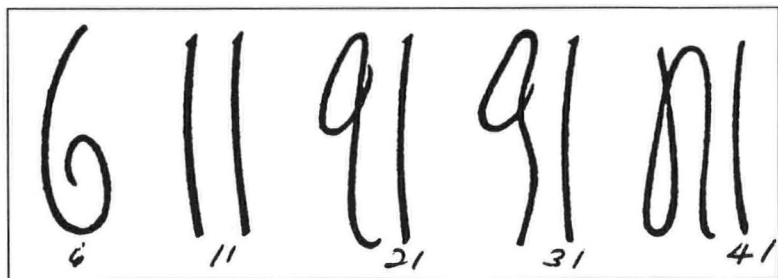


Figure 4.

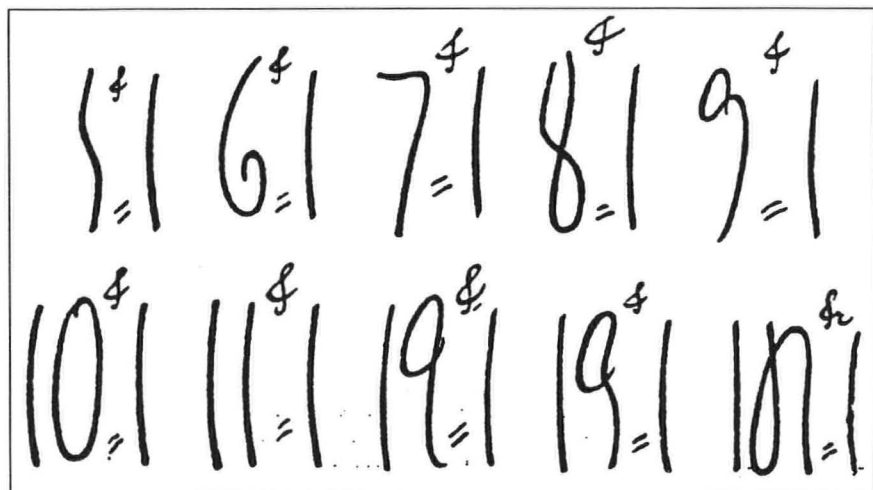


Figure 5.

TYPES AND SUBTYPES

10c and 35c Sowers with thin inscriptions

Type I (first printings) was replaced by a retouched, cleaner-design Type IIA; white border of sower's back thicker and clearer in IIA than in I; sometimes a wavy color line in front part of bonnet. Both types used by sheet stamps (I less common than IIA) and for stamped letter-cards. Type IIB, used only for stamped letter-cards, similar to IIA but has thicker white line at back of robe. The 10c green stamp, from the scarce *Minéraline* and *Phéna* booklets, is of Type IIB. The 35c stamps, printed only in sheets, exist in Types I and IIA, with I several times the scarcer. Type III is found on the scarce 10c red booklet stamps and on 10c red stamped postal cards; final E of RE-PUBLIQUE shaped like an E instead of like an F as per the earlier types.



AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES--37

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

Twice before this series has dealt with the postcards that were introduced into the French postal system in the Siege of Paris. The second of these columns concerned a card to England that was flown either on the sole official, unmanned balloon or else on the *Piper 1*. Number 25 was about the change from extra long delay for domestic cards to their being handled as promptly as letters.

Professor Robert Jacquot let me have a copy of that card to England, and Charles Fricke owns and wrote up in *The American Philatelist*, the promptly processed card, addressed to Granville.

This time we shall consider a problem that has concerned me for some time, the solution to which I had on hand for years but simply overlooked until now. The question is, did the Paris post office tell its clients that cards for France and Algeria would henceforth not be posted by unmanned balloons, as provided in the second decree signed by the government of National Defense on 26 September and published the next day in the *Journal officiel*?

First of all, E. Stoullig, secretary of the postmaster general, wrote a letter on 3 October, published in *Le Temps* for 6 October, in which he talks not only of the mails generally but about cards in particular: "Two post-office employees are stationed at the Godard [balloon] factory to receive there the postal cards sent from the main office and to supervise their transport as soon as the wind permits launching a free balloon." Hence the idea of unmanned balloons for postcards was still very much alive on the 3rd.

It has long been known that the bulk of surviving cards from the Siege was loaded aboard the *Jean Bart 2* and used as ballast, when packages of them were dumped on 16 October near Soisson that had just then been taken by Germans, who attacked the low-flying object. The details of the finds and dates of markings on the cards by post offices of nearby communities are given in LePileur's *Les Aérostats Poste 1870-1871*, 1953, on pages 34 (table) - 38, though he and the printer managed to confuse the matter a bit, he by ascribing the covers in that table to the wrong balloon, the printer by putting the footnote not at the bottom of that table but at the bottom of page 36. French philatelists generally found their way through that labyrinth, it seems.

After that incident, the use of cards had dropped abruptly, though it did not stop completely. Nor did the post office ever object to the 10-centimes franking, a 50% discount from the postage for single-weight letters, on cards to France and Algeria all during the Siege. Did Parisians learn just by word of mouth that the special transport of cards had ended, or were they told by official, formal means of communication?

The answer can be found on page 135 of the CHRONIQUE DU SIÈGE DE PARIS, a gift for subscribers to the *Paris-Journal*. (The *Gaulois*, and perhaps other newspapers as well, issued similar summaries of the events of the war in 1871, realizing they would make dandy perpetual advertisements because they would become instant souvenirs; remember that first-day covers had not yet been invented.) The brief entry in the CHRONIQUE is as follows -

On the 21st [October] it was announced:

"The administration of posts has renounced the system of unmanned balloons, too likely to get lost.

"It has almost entirely disposed of its backlog of mail, by successive aerial

and pedestrian departures, and is presently current in its bi- or tri-weekly mailings.

"The post office found among its personnel some ten intrepid mailmen who undertook to breach the Prussian lines [All Germans were called Prussians.] Nevertheless, the delay in the re-appearance of four or five of them, since their last attempt, causes worry about their fate.

"One of the most capable and toughest, named Brard, whose name has already been cited in the journal, is among them."

Except for that phrase "whose name...in the journal," the announcement appears to be official, perhaps even including that spelling of the name, which now generally appears as Brare. It seems that the decision was taken soon after the *Jean-Bart 2* had been launched. As it happens, the pilot had to use many or most of the cards as ballast. Had Pilot Labadie been told that one mail bag contained only cards and that they were expendable in case of need?

Paris presumably had not yet heard about that accident, nor about the fact that packages of cards were found all around the Soisson neighborhood, mostly within the next three days. Some bundles, however, were not found and postmarked until 23 October and 2 or 7 November. Many cards were damaged to various degrees by (rain) water. Thus, a damaged card marked at Crécy-sur-Serre, Anizy-le-Château, or Vic-sur-Aine should not automatically be considered inferior but probably came by its scars quite as honestly as a water-damaged letter that had been in the ocean for a while, or a letter personally entrusted to Verrecke, the pilot of the *Général Chanzy*, who buried a bundle of his most precious mail under the snow of Bavaria, where it was found by a shepherd the next spring.

The little newspaper item that is reproduced in the war chronicle of *Paris-Journal* serves as a reminder that it is never too late to read and reread historical accounts of a period one likes to study. Nor does it matter whether the source is considered to be reliable. The important point is that one's knowledge of things keeps changing and increasing with time, if one is interested in them; and what seemed unimportant or even irrelevant years ago may meanwhile have become of considerable importance. One must decide, in the light of other knowledge one has acquired, whether a printed account is useful or not. The beauty of the printed word is that it is still available (if it hasn't faded away, of course) after all those years.

[Editor's note: Readers are advised (or at least reminded) that the even-numbered "Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories" are published in the "Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society" of our sister society in Great Britain].

CORRIGENDA

Eagle-eyed (being as well the editor of *The London Philatelist*) George Barker caught two boo-boos in our "A Guide to Collecting the Sabines of Gandon," in N° 251 (January 1998, pp. 7-12). Page 7, paragraph 2: The painting's more exact title, according to the Louvre where it is kept and displayed, is "The Sabine women stopping the battle between the Sabines and the Romans." Page 7, paragraph on Sheet Stamps: RGR [press] stands for "high-output rotary [press]," and **not** "extra-rapid rotary." Thanks, George, for a close reading of my stuff!

MORE "PHILATELIC VIGNETTES" IN THE COLONIES

by Bob Picirilli (FCPS #2381)

Marty Bratzel's "Vignettes of Philately in Cameroun" in the January 1998 FCP (Whole N° 251) showed philatelic advertisements in the official journal of Cameroun from 1931 to 1945. Very interesting indeed. They reminded me of somewhat similar indications in the *Journal Officiel de la Côte d'Ivoire* which our readers might also find of interest.

The advertisement shown in Figure 1 appeared in the issue for 15 January

OFFICE CENTRAL PHILATÉLIQUE

6, Rue de Parme - PARIS
J. BARBARIN, Directeur

TARIF D'ACHAT

des TIMBRES-POSTE, TIMBRES-TAXE et TIMBRES de COLIS POSTAUX
des COLONIES FRANÇAISES

L'Office achète ferme et en toute quantité (paiement par retour du courrier) ou accepte en paiement d'un article de son Catalogue d'Horlogerie, envoyé franco sur demande, les timbres des diverses catégories ci-dessus désignées aux prix suivants:

1° TIMBRES USÉS

Timbres de 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20 et 25 centimes.....	à 7 fr. le mille
Timbres de 40 centimes.....	à 8 fr. le cent
Timbres de 80 et 50 centimes.....	à 13 fr. »
Timbres de 75 centimes et 1 franc.....	à 27 fr. »
Timbres de 2 francs.....	à 50 fr. »
Timbres au-dessus de 2 francs.....	à 1 fr. 25 pièce

Les timbres surchargés, c'est-à-dire, ayant leur valeur primitive modifiée par une nouvelle valeur en surcharge sont payés 50 % au-dessus des prix ci-dessus.

Tous les timbres doivent être propres et en bon état.

2° TIMBRES NEUFS

L'Office n'achète pas les timbres neufs actuellement en cours, non surchargés. Néanmoins elle les accepte à leur valeur postale nette, en paiement d'un de ses articles d'horlogerie.

L'Office achète les timbres neufs des anciennes émissions à leur valeur postale augmentée de 10 %.

L'Office achète toujours les timbres neufs surchargés de toutes les émissions anciennes ou actuelles, sans exception, en toute quantité, à leur valeur postale augmentée de 20 % à titre de commission.

Les timbres neufs doivent être dans l'état où la poste les délivre, c'est-à-dire munis de leur gomme et autant que possible non séparés.

Figure 1.

1906, and perhaps could also have been placed in the journals of other colonies. The "Central Philatelic Office" offers to buy, in any quantity, both used and mint stamps, at the prices indicated, and to pay by return mail or to accept the value towards purchases from its *Catalogue d'Horlogerie*—whatever that was (a watchmaker's catalog?).

The buyer will pay 7 franc per thousand for used stamps through the 25 centimes value, 8 francs per hundred for the 40 centimes stamps, etc., on up to 1.25 franc per individual stamp of higher than 2 franc face value. Though

he doesn't accept unsurcharged, current mint stamps, he will take them at face value in trade for items from his *Horlogerie* catalog. For older mint stamps he will pay face plus 10%; and for any mint surcharged stamps of any period, face plus 20%. Mint stamps must be in post-office condition, preferably as unseparated multiples. I'm assuming I've read the advertisement correctly.

The advertisement shown in Figure 2 appeared in the issue for 30 April

L'ACHETE TOUS LES TIMBRES de la COTE D'IVOIRE

AFRIQUE OCCIDENTALE FRANÇAISE

POSTES et TAXES ayant servi, pourvu qu'ils soient en Bon Etat, propres, ni déchirés, pliés ou abîmés.

Je paie { 8 fr. le mille les timb. de 1 c 3 fr. le cent les timb. de 10, 15 c
1 fr. 75 le cent — 2 c 7 fr. — — 20 c
3 fr. — — 4, 5 c 5 fr. — — 25 c

et toutes les autres valeurs à des prix très élevés.

J'accepte toutes quantités aussi importantes qu'elles soient.

Paiement dès réception mand.-poste ou ill. de banque

L. BERNARD, 8, rue Baudin, 8, PARIS-9e (Maison fondée en 1888)

Figure 2.

1924. It is also an offer to buy, this time by L.(?) Bernard, firm founded in 1888 (does it, by chance, exist still?). As in the previous instance, the stamps must be in good condition and clean, without tear, fold or other damage. All postally used postage and postage-due stamps of the Ivory Coast are required, at the buying prices indicated.

The more things change, the more they remain the same!

SOME SHOW REPORTS

- ALAPEX '98 (Birmingham, AL, February 1998): Silver medal to Edward Nyberg for his German exhibit; Ernst Cohn served as jury chairman.
- 1998 March Party (Cleveland, March): Gold medal to Scott Gallagher for his Puerto Rico postal history exhibit; Vermeil medal to Thomas Taylor for his exhibit on Washington, DC prestamp markings.
- PARFOREX '98 (Park Forest, IL, March): Gold medal to Paul Larsen for an exhibit of early Leeward Islands.
- TEXPEX '98 (Dallas, April): The Grand Award and a Gold medal went to Earle Plyler for his definitive exhibit on U.S. 2¢ domestic rates.
- WESTPEX '98 (San Francisco, May): Two Gold medals to Steve Washburne for two exhibits of 19th Century Portugal.
- OKPEX '98 (Oklahoma City, May): Reserve Grand and Gold medal to Eliot Landau for his U.S. 6¢ Lincoln Banknote exhibit. A French exhibit by non-member(?) Connor Johnson, "French History Through Postal Covers from Kings to Republics" received a Vermeil medal. Silver-Bronze medals to Bob Kinsley for two one-frame exhibits: "French Internees in Switzerland" and "The F-Stamp."
- ROMPEX '98 (Denver, May): Gold medal to your Editor for "France: Military Campaigns 1823-1897"; Silver medal to Bob Kinsley for "France: Stampless 1566-1875."

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

Articles, shorter contributions, book reviews, and notes of likely interest to our readers are always welcome and actively solicited. Please write to me first with your project, outline or idea so that I may advise you of preferred format and on preparation of illustrations. And, we are always seeking sources of interesting and attractive, unusual stamps and covers to illustrate our Journal, including its title pages. What might you have to share for "show and tell"?

I've learned now, but of course far too late to be of use to potential visitors, that the annual Congress (and exhibition and bourse) of the French Philatelic Associations for 1998 will be held in Dunkirk at the end of May. Would some French, British (or other European) member please advise me as well in advance of dates and sites for the 1999 and later Congresses. This would be much appreciated by members thinking about visiting France.

Due to the exigencies of ROMPEX '98, where I wear several hats (and do more work that I really care to), I've had to curtail my reading of philatelic (and other) journals and books. As a result, I very surely missed picking up some news, notes and articles For the Record, etc. Hope to semi-catch up for the next number.

Early this Spring, my wife and I went on a far-too-brief vacation to Ecuador's Galapagos Islands, via Quito. Besides it being unbearably hot and humid in the islands, El Niño had diverted the oceanic currents (particularly the cold Humboldt Current) and completely disrupted the food chain, from planktons on up the scale. Consequently, many species failed to make their annual appearance, other populations were sparse and were not mating, and there was wholesale loss of bird and mammal life. At least the volcanic rocks were still there for me to admire! The coastal mainland also suffered heavily from flooding and the destruction of roads and bridges.

Ecuador is a small and poor country with decent, friendly people. Unlike some other Latin American countries that are rife with hallucinogenic drugs and human-rights violations, Ecuador receives very little foreign aid from the U.S. Perhaps it's time to help some really deserving and needy countries and, if any of you have any pull with our Congress and/or the Administration, and if your feelings jibe with mine, please do work to help the "good guys." And now, best to get off my soapbox and stick more closely to philately.

You will find our Treasurer's Annual Report in this number, as it reached me too late for its usual place in the April number. It appears that we're still (albeit lightly) in the black.

Struggling mightily to enter the 1990s before the arrival of the millennium, I now have the ability to both send and receive (usually) faxes. See page 66 for number. Might e-mail be far behind? Probably!

JOHN H. MINSKER

We were saddened to learn that our very long-time member (FCPS N° 285) John Minsker died March 3, 1998 after a brief illness. We have extended our condolences to his wife, Miriam. John (Minsker) and John (Morton) had been the bulwark of our rather too few but most faithful Western New York members. And now both have closed their albums for the last time. This past winter Mr. Minsker had sent me photocopies of the pages of a small exhibit on the Paris *Petite Poste* that he had earlier purchased from John Morton's estate, with the desire that I might write it up and publish it in our Journal. Though it has thus far remained untouched, I plan to work it up for near-future publication. The subject of the Paris *Petite Poste* is worth bringing up every once in a while, especially for the benefit of our newer members. More importantly, the article—which probably will be under the joint authorship of our two Johns—would be a fitting tribute to two fine gentlemen and friends who are and shall be missed.

-- S. J. Luft

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- All unauthorized reproductions of postage stamps, even partial reproductions, are forbidden in France by Law N° 92,597 of 1 July 1992. This right belongs exclusively and solely to the artists, designers and engravers, and is therefore extended to unaccepted designs and essays. This exclusivity does not terminate at death, but is extended to the beneficiaries for a total of 70 additional years, upon which the item finally becomes public domain.

Since 1 January 1987, only *La Poste* (along with the artists, etc.) can authorize the reproduction and commercial exploitation of postage stamps, and generally grants same for educational and cultural activities (**including catalogues and the philatelic press**). But, prior to 1987, one had to obtain permission (usually via the *Service National des Timbres-Poste*) from the authors themselves, with numerous restrictions being applied. Authorization to reproduce pictorial cancellations must still come from their local sources; and for heraldic arms from their political or regional sources. For this, our Journal, we've so far managed to ignore these complicated formalities, from safe haven in the U.S.

- The Paris-Louvre post office, at 52 rue du Louvre, is open 24 hours a day. There collectors may obtain a special cancellation showing how many days remain until the year 2000. There will be a special cancellation prepared especially for use at midnight on 1 January 2000.
- Mail from the recently independent island of Anjouan in the Comoros Archipelago can reach the outside world apparently only via Mayotte and then the French postal system. A private maritime service between Anjouan and Mayotte charges 1 French franc for carriage, in addition to the usual postage from Mayotte outbound. An affixed tricolor self-adhesive imperforate vignette (Figure 1) indicates prepayment of the fee. Presumably, this 1F fee is retained by the State of Anjouan.



Figure 1.

- Illustrated postcards were all the rage throughout the world, particularly prior to the First World War. Philatelists, and tourists in general, demanded of their postal administrations that they be permitted to write messages on the left side of the card, with address and postage relegated to the right side, the two sides to be divided vertically into more or less equal parts. Though their demands were eventually met, cards sent at postcard rates (domestic and foreign) could be and were taxed as 1st-class letters if (1) any message strayed across the vertical line, and (2) if the recipient's country did not accept cards that bore any sort of message on the address

side. By 1907, when the U.S. finally approved of cards with divided address sides, most such cards had become universally accepted at postcard (and printed matter) rates. (Adapted from article by Robert Abensur in *Documents Philatéliques*, N° 154, 1997).

- Well-known, long-time (since 1938) stamp dealer Jean Silombra died 4 February. He was 83 years old. He was best known as an airmail specialist, the publisher of the Silombra airmail catalogue, and as the author of a well-regarded history of French aviation from 1783 to 1930.
- The round stamp issued 28 February-2 March 1998 for the World Cup of Football (FRANCE 98) is perforated 13 in a circle. This required using a special perforator that cut through the paper in two stages by percussion.
- The stamps and postal stationery of France will continue to be inscribed in and be sold for French currency until Year 2002. After that, they are to be inscribed in, and sold for, euros according to La Poste.
- Robert Alteriet, specialist in late 20th Century French stamp varieties and *coins datés*, on which subjects he wrote at great length, mainly in *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, died 4 March 1998 in his 88th year.
- Marcel Monchicourt, author of an extended serial in *Le Monde des Philatélistes* some years back on his collecting specialty, the myriad means of paying the French domestic letter rate during the month of September 1871--first month of the increased 1871 Tariff--died 5 April 1998 at the age of 86.
- Jean-François Brun, well-known dealer, expert, philatelic writer, and the president of the Académie de Philatélie, has been invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the June 1998 British philatelic congress.
- Member Bob Metcalf has found a Colonies (General Issue) 80c Eagle stamps printed on horizontally laid paper. No mention was made of laid paper for this issue by Bob Stone in his 1961 "French Colonies - The General Issues," and I've not seen this paper variety noted in other studies. Can anyone out there come up with a reference, or might this be a new find? Thankee!
- Shirley Gallagher was named a trustee of the Philatelic Foundation on 22 April, replacing her recently deceased husband Scott.
- Sagem booklets [normally containing 10 self-adhesive permanent-value stamps in two strips of five] have appeared with no stamps at all (Figure 2). These are not errors nor true varieties, but come rather from a special press run furnished to postal technicians for their use in adjusting automatic booklet-dispensing machines. Thus, they may be considered as being "stampless dummy stamp booklets." In any case, they are being offered by some dealers at rather elevated prices.

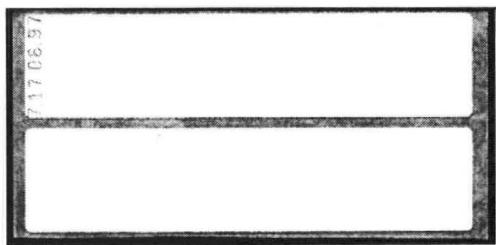


Figure 2.

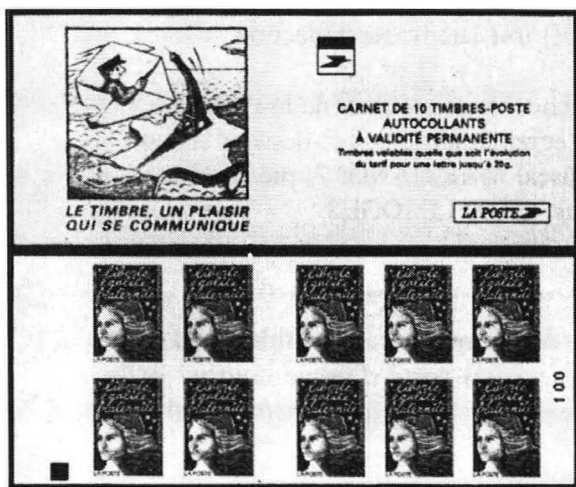
- New counterfeit Marianne coils (presumably of the permanent-value Marianne de Luquet) have recently appeared in the Drôme Dept. but are assumed to have been fabricated in Marseille. They are printed by offset (flat surface) rather than intaglio (in relief) and their bars are fluorescent (no afterglow when UV light is turned off) rather than phosphorescent.
- Members interested in the philately of Andorra are advised that the Andorran Philatelic Study Circle has set up a web site at <http://www.chy-an-piran.demon.co.uk>. The Circle's Hon. Secretary, David Hope, can be reached by mail at 17 Hawthorn Drive, Stalybridge, Cheshire SK15 1UE, Great Britain or at his web site apsc@chy-an-piran.demon.co.uk.

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 252, April 1998, p. 57)

France

- 28 February (2 March): the round 3,00F sheet stamp for FRANCE 98 was also issued as a self-adhesive stamp in booklets of ten at 30F;
- 13 March: booklet of ten permanent-value self-adhesive stamps, sold at 30F, with new-design cover (see illustration);



- 14 (16) March: 3,00F Citeaux Abbey (Côte d'Or); 3,00F Bicent. of reunion of Mulhouse with France;
- 4 (6) April: 3,00F St. Pierre, Martinique;
- 18 (20) April: 3,00F Art of Magritte [joint issue with Belgium]; 4,50F Edict of Nantes (1598-1998);
- 25 (27) April: 6,70F Art of Delacroix; 3,00F 150th Anniv. of Abolition of Slavery in the Colonies;
- 2 (4) May: 3,00F Noirmoutier Island (Vendée);
- 9 (11) May: 4,40F Cent. of League of Human Rights; La Lettre six 3,00F stamps, set-tenant, + label; 36F booklet of self-adhesive stamps in same La Lettre designs;
- 15 (18) May: 6,70F Art of Picasso; 4,50F Henri Collet (composer, 1885-1951);
- 29 May (2 June): 3,00F 71st Congress of French Philatelic Associations, Dunkirk;
- 6 (8) June: 3,00F Mont-St.-Michel;
- 13 (15) June: 3,00F Festival of Music [EUROPA 98];
- 27 (29) June: 3,00F Gulf of the Somme.

Withdrawals: 13 February: 3,00F Happy Birthday; 3,00F Guimiliau; 4,50F St. Martin ["From Gaul to France"]; 4,50F Les Salles-Lavauguyon; 13 March: all remaining Marianne de Briat issues: (0,10, 0,20, 0,50, 1,00, 2,00, 3,50, 4,40, 4,50, 5F, 10F, all permanent-value booklets, 2,70F and permanent-value coils, prestamped permanent-value postal card); 3,00F 1997 Happy Anniversary; 3,00F World Rowing Championships; 3,00F Basque Corsairs; 6,70F Art of César; 31 March: 3,00F SAR-LOR-LUX European Region; 10 April: 3,00F Sablé-sur-Sarthe; 3,00F St. Maurice Basilica, Epinal; 3,00F horse-drawn cart, Boulogne port; 4,90F Japan Year; 3,00F Domaine de Sceaux; 3,00F World Judo Championships; 7 May: six at 3,00F Voyage of a Letter "semi-permanent" stamps; 12 June: 4,40F College of France; 4,50F "La Qualité"; six at 3,00F + 0,60F and 21,60F booklet, Heroes of sword and cape romances; 20F Airmail Hydravion CAMS 53.

Andorra

- 11 (13) March: 5,00F 20th Anniv. of Rotary Club of Andorra [corrected issue dates, from entry in previous number];
- 4 May: 3,80F arboreal finch.

Withdrawals: 13 February: 3,00F Mola i serradora de Col Pal; 6,70F St. Roma; 6,70F Santa Coloma.

French Polynesia

- 16 April: Aviation in Polynesia sheetlet: 70F, 85F, label, 70F, 85F se-tenant;
- 14 May: Orchids 5F, 20F, 50F, 100F;
- 7 June: 1000F 150th Anniv. of Birth of Gauguin;
- 10 June: 85F World Cup soccer;
- 16 July: HEIVA (Necklaces of flowers and shells) 55F, 65F, 70F, 80F.

Withdrawals: 30 June: Official stamps at 9F and 85F; 55F Society for oceanic studies; 13F Year of the Bull; Polynesian bedding (3 stamps); Heiva (dance costumes) (3 stamps); 88F 50th Anniv. of the "Kon-Tiki"; Bicent. of Evangelism in Tahiti (2 stamps); San Francisco-Papeete mail service (PA-CIFIC 97); 510F Queen Pomaré booklet of ten; 2040F Tahiti scenes booklet of 24 stamps.

Mayotte

- 13 January: 3,00F sea turtle; 2,70F Port of Longoni;
- 2 April: 30F oxpicker bird (on zebu); 1,00F family planning.

Monaco

- 3 March: 5,00F 50th Anniv. of Monegasque Red Cross (see illustration).

New Caledonia

- 2 January: non-denominated Cagou Bird definitive, sold at 70F; booklet of self-adhesives in same design, at 700F;
- 22 January: edible mushrooms, three at 70F;
- 17 March: 105F and 110F Territorial Museum (masks);
- 5 June: 100F FRANCE 98 (World Cup football) round stamp.

Withdrawals: 30 June: 95F fossil horned tortoise; Hong Kong 97 (Year of the Bull) 95F and 150F SS; 100F 50th Anniv. of the CPS; 1000F Francois Mitterand; Cent. of death of Alphonse Daudet: four at 65F + 260F SS; Melanesian pottery: two at 95F; 105F Senator Henri Lafleur; insects, three at 65F.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 11 (16) February [or March]: 5,20F Curling; 3,80F Fauna and Flora (horses);
- 8 (13) April: 1,70F and 2,00F ice-making industry.

Withdrawals: 13 February: 5,20F volleyball; 13 March: 3,80F bird and flower (issued March 1997); 10 April: 1,70F salt marsh and 2,00F dory; 22 May: 3,00F Noël 1997.

Wallis & Futuna

- 26 January: 800F Preparation of the Umu;
- 18 February: Pacific Orchids 70F, 85F, 90F, 105F;
- 24 March: 7F Telecom 2000 at Wallis;
- 21 April: 315F Alofi beach airmail (see illustration).

Withdrawals: 30 June: 7F 50th Anniv. of the CPS; Flags of the Wallis monarchies (three); 400F Lapita pottery; 170F tub for making kava; 180F(?) "Le conteur, tressage d'une natte, Kai 'Umu" [which was not reported in this Journal as ever having been issued]; 62F and 80F green lagoon turtle; Scenes of Wallis life (three).



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q. 98.1.** Why would a cover addressed to Lyon carry both a 21 Jan 1900 Bordeaux A Loango Line L Ship 1 maritime postmark (Salles #1211) and a 1 Feb 1900 Paid Liverpool Br. Packet handstamp (Figure 1)? There is

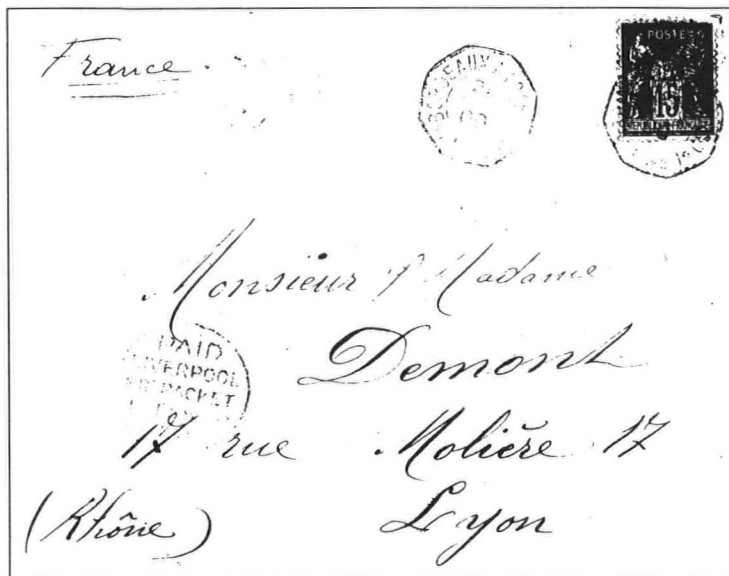


Figure 1.

no indication of the origin of the cover, but there is a clear 3 Feb 1900 Lyon receiving backstamp. Ship 1, the *Maranhao*, presumably left Bordeaux on 15 January for its regular trip along the African coast and would have been at Tenerife in the Canary Islands six days later when the maritime postmark was probably applied. There the discovery was made that this cover did not belong on the ship, and it was removed and placed on a British ship bound for France. If this speculation is correct, we can only say that the British packet was very, very fast. (RTK).

(Editor's Note: Finally! Our first Question of 1998. Will there be others? Sorry to say, there don't appear to be any answers to earlier questions.)

D. SCOTT GALLAGHER

Our good friend Scott Gallagher yielded to pneumonia, after a battle with cancer, 31 March. He had difficulty breathing on Sunday and went to the hospital where he died in his sleep early Tuesday. Scott was an omnivorous collector with an eye for postal history. In addition to his membership in FCPS, he was active in the Confederate Stamp Alliance and the U.S. Classics Society. Of his several collections, his "Puerto Rico" was exhibited in the Court of Honor at Granada '92, and his "Kentucky in the Confederacy" was widely acclaimed on the APS national circuit and shown at CAPEX '96. His interest in the Caribbean area included the French maritime service, and he was one of the "angels" who helped fund the publication of Bob Stone's *Caribbean Neptune*.

He was a fighter. His most publicized battle was certification of the unique 10 cent Knoxville postmaster provisional on cover, ex-Caspary--sale No. 3, lot #167. After an

initial, unfavorable opinion, Scott organized a concerted search of sources and, following years of effort, was able to persuade the committee to issue a good certificate. Recognizing his excellence in pursuit of philatelic research, the Philatelic Foundation elected him as a Trustee in 1995. Gallagher was a man who enjoyed life—good wine, food, and company. I remember driving out to Cincinnati with Bob Stone in 1990 so we could attend an open house at the Gallaghers during the APS annual meeting. Last October, Scott and Shirley were in New York for Scott's 75th birthday. The Gallaghers hosted a group dinner at the Four Seasons, and then were our guests the next night at a theater party. The show "Beauty and the Beast" which we told them was chosen in their honor.

Scott was interested in canoeing and supported Little Miami Inc. [P.O. Box 8386, Cincinnati, OH 45208] in their efforts to preserve the river for sports use.

--J. E. Lievsay

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from #252, April 1998, p. 61)

- **761.)** The 0,50F red Marianne de Bequet, that was printed for a short time in January-early February 1971 on TD3 presses, appears to have become something of a "national class" rarity, if not quite a "world class" one, according to Pascal Marziano, writing in *Le Monde des Philatélistes* (November and December 1997). Only four complete panes of 100 stamps seem to exist, all of them from press TD3-1. The TD3-press version is distinguished from the common TD6-press product by the marginal machine-turned fretwork at pane sides (actually at top and bottom inasmuch as the TD3 stamps were printed sideways) (Figure 1) and by a heavier concentra-

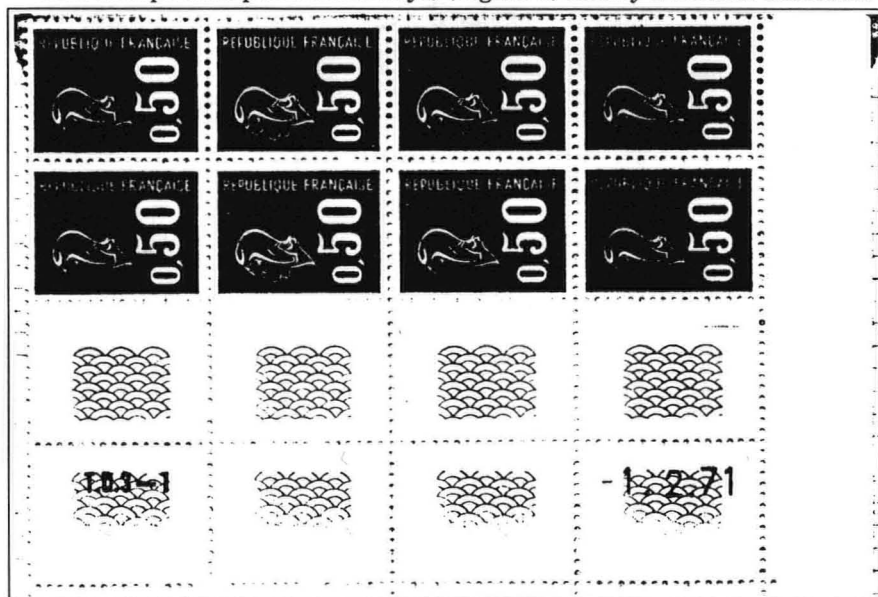


Figure 1. 1 February 1971 printing, 7th press run of the 0.50 Bequet; a late printing date from Press TD3-1. Stamps printed sideways, with fretwork (guillotage) at bottom.

tion of ink at left edge of the stamp, rather than at top or bottom. Used copies are fairly common but covers—dating mainly from Spring 1971—are quite scarce.

- **762.)** More on the C.F.A. currency (see Item 756 in January 1998 *FCP*), courtesy of Bill Mitchell. Inflation and currency devaluation during after WWII occurred at a much higher rate in France than in French Africa, making their currencies no longer freely convertible. Consequently, the French franc hitherto in use in Africa, was devalued with respect to the new (by Decree of 25 December 1945) *Colonies Françaises d'Afrique* franc, to 1.70 French francs = 1 CFA franc (rounded down from 1.75:1 for easier conversion). On 17 October 1948, the ratio was changed to 2:1. (From Virginia Thompson and Richard Adloff, *French West Africa*, Allen & Unwin, London, 1958, p. 277-278; and "The Origin of the CFA Franc" by Bob Stuckey [translated from a longer article in French by Charles Ortolí] in the *Journal of the F&CPS [of Great Britain]*, v. 47, No. 2, June 1997. According to Ortolí, whose article was published in 1989, the 2:1 ratio was then still in force.
- **763.)** For political and economic reasons the 20c blue Sage (Scott 71, Yvert 73) was never issued. On 1 May 1878 the domestic letter rate was to be drastically lowered from 25c to 15c, bypassing a potential intermediate 20c rate. The 20c Sage had already been printed during November 1876-January 1877; 45,265 sheets totalling 14,179,500 stamps,—of which some 11 million (in Type I: N under B) (Figure 2) already were perforated and gummed—that is, ready to be shipped and sold. The rest, not as yet perforated, were of Type II (N under U). All but a very few were incinerated 24 February 1880 and the survivors are worth a bundle. Fakes exist, mainly "privately perforated" Granet reprints.



Figure 2. The unissued 20c blue Sage (Type I).

- At the same time, a black 20c postage due stamp (Sc J5, Yv Taxe 9A) was also abandoned and the printing also almost wholly destroyed. It had been planned for the 2x penalty tax on unpaid 10c local letters—a rate which did not take effect. (Abstracted from article by Michel Melot, Jean-François Brun and Michele Chauvet, in *Timbroscopie*, September 1997).
- **764.)** Postal *Bulletin Mensuel* N° 187, May 1865, officially adopted the hitherto informal system of *boîtes mobiles* (mobile mail boxes) and advised various post offices that they would be receiving special BOÎTE MOBILE handstamps (Figure 3) in the near future, that is after May 1865. The earliest known use of such a marking has been July 1865. Our member Arnaud de La Mettrie has since found and described a BESSEGES/BOÎTE MOBILE marking that is undoubtedly dated 25 August 1863 (*Le Monde des Philatélistes*, October 1997). Presumably, the marking was an experimental one, prior to general approval and use in and after

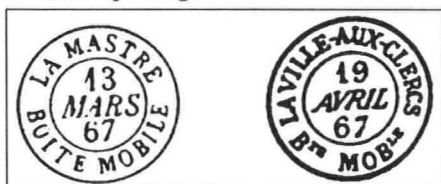


Figure 3. Examples of Mobile Box date stamps.

May 1865. Incidentally, these markings were soon replaced (January, 1867, last seen 1869) by the more familiar BM in an oval.

- **765.)** In an exhaustive, well-documented study in *Documents Philatéliques* N° 154 (1997), Jean-François Brun demonstrates conclusively that (in spite of many fakes and improper usages) the handstamped **Besetztes/Gebiet/Nordfrankreich** markings, catalogued as Yvert War Stamps 2 through 7, were officially authorized by the German military command and, on their orders, by the postmaster of Dunkirk. Two slightly differing handstamps, prepared for French civilian use at Dunkirk (Figure 4a) and

Coudekerque (Figure 4c) during July and early August 1940, exist and are kept at the Musée de la Poste at Paris. Both imprints were originally rectangular but that for Dunkirk suffered damage very early on, which resulted in rounded upper corners (Figure 4b). During the period of obligatory usage of the handstamps, postal persons from other nearby post offices in the Nord Department had to travel to either Dunkirk or Coudekerque to have their stamp and stationery stocks handstamped with these devices. Though perhaps philatelically inspired by some German officer, their use was the only way that domestic mail could legitimately transit in the region during those few weeks of the summer of 1940.

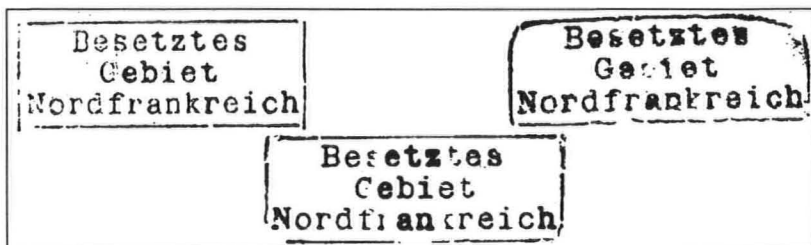


Figure 4. (a) first state of the Dunkirk handstamp; (b) second (damaged) state; (c) the Coudekerque handstamp.

- > **766.)** Bob Kinsley has provided a copy of an August 1900 Dahomey occupation cover sent from Porto-Novo to the Loire Inférieure Dept. It bears a heretofore unreported maritime postmark error wherein the Line L LOANGO A BORDEAUX (Salles N° 1214) is spelled LOANAGO A BORDEAUX. Has anyone previously seen this misspelling, or can Bob call his cover the "discovery" copy?



Figure 5. Salles N° 1214, variant spelling LOANAGO (clearer copy appended to lower left of cover).

REVIEWS

John S. Phipps, *The Stamps and Posts of Albania and Epirus 1878 to 1945*, ISBN: 0 9527177 4 3; x + 285 pp., 8¼ x 11¾", softbound; 1997; many black and white ill. & 5 maps; \$42.50 + \$2 postage from James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 6484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus; limited supply available.

This impressive volume is another of the publications from the Stuart Rossiter Trust. Many years ago I collected the stamps of Albania, together with most of the other Balkan countries. A major reason I gave up Albania was the absence of any significant literature beyond the standard catalogs. The author bravely steps into this void, and has produced a very readable and information-packed volume. As he admits, further research will be required in many areas, but this book can serve as a firm basis for anyone who wants to collect his area.

In this country, Albania is not generally considered an area of French interest. However, in Europe the issues of the Koritza government from 1916 to 1920 are frequently listed as French occupation stamps. There are ten pages devoted to these issues, including the first detailed instructions I have seen for identifying the multitudinous counterfeits. One of the rather strange covers with French stamps used from the Territoire de Pogradec is illustrated and discussed, but no clear conclusion is drawn regarding its legitimacy.

I highly recommend this book if you have any interest in the area. For what you get, I feel the price is very attractive. --R. M. Stevens

Jacques Benezra, *The Cancellations and Handstamps of the Chérifien Post*, 29 pp., A4, plastic cover, (1998), ISBN 2-9510819-3-6; price not stated, inquire of S.P.L.M., 206 Boulevard Péreire, F-75017 Paris.

The Philatelic Society of Study and Research for Morocco and Tunisia (S.P.L.M.), under its energetic founder-president, Jean Haik, has now published its second handbook. This one, by M. Benezra, is far slimmer and less ambitious than its predecessor, on the Local and Private Posts of Morocco, reviewed in N° 249 (July 1997) of this Journal.

It consists of single pages of Contents, of Acknowledgements, etc. and of a general introduction. The Chérifien (Local) Post was established 22 November 1892, carried between towns by *rekkas* (runners) at first on foot, later on horseback where feasible, and was absorbed into the French Moroccan postal system on 1 November 1913.

The 148 known (to date) cancellations and handstamps are listed and described on pages 10-15; 103 of them are shown full size (Figure 1) on pages 16-26.



Figure 1. Examples of Chérifien Post cancellations from the book.

Spaces are left for new discoveries. Order is alphabetical by town served. Valuations are in French francs and run between 300 and 1200 francs for ordinary mail, legitimately used, and with legible markings. Pages 27 and 28 show four covers with their recent audition realizations. The bibliography is on p. 29.

Very obviously, this pamphlet-size handbook is not for everyone's bookshelf. Nevertheless, there is a growing number of Morocco collectors in Morocco, France and elsewhere, and specialists in the pre-French occupation period should find this work very useful indeed.

--S. J. Luff

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

- B. Magnes, *Etiquettes de Retour Occasionnelles*; 52 pp., 20.5 x 29.5 cm, stapled; (1998); numerous black and white photocopies; Supplement N° 117 (January 1998) of *Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile*; 100Fr (+ postage?) from C.L.E.P.M., c/o Dr. Pierre Magnard, 141 rue Duguesclin, F-69006 Lyon, France. (A study of the **provisional** labels and handstamps used in France on mail to be returned to the sender).
- *La cote des coins datés et des millésimes*, 1998, 61st edition, 125 pp., 50Fr postpaid, from S.O.CO.CO.DA.MI., Boite Postale 4625, F-22046 St. Brieuc Cedex 2, France. (The annual priced catalog of coins datés blocks and millésimes pairs.)
- *L'Impression des Timbres Français per les Rotatives: o,30 Cheffer typo*; 40 pp., 15 x 21 cm, (1997); 30Fr postpaid (in France, perhaps more elsewhere?), from S.O.CO.CO.DA.MI., address given above. (Coins datés, press runs, distinctive markings of the various printing cylinders of the o,30 typographed République de Cheffer [Scott 1231C, Yvert 1611].)
- J. Storch and R. Françon, *Les Entiers Postaux de France et de Monaco* 6th edition (1998); 272 pp., numerous illustrations, softbound; 280Fr + postage, from Editions Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris. (Updated edition of the now-standard priced catalogue of French and Monaco postal stationery; includes revised listing of World Wars and Occupations stationery, plus at least partial coverage of recent "ready to mail" and La Poste "pseudo" postal cards/promotional items.)
- Jean Sénéchal, *Bureaux Spéciaux, Franchises, Contreseings, Marques Administratives des origines à 1900*: vol. 1 (1575-1848); 430 pp., clothbound, thousands of illustrations; separate pamphlet listing values of all items shown; 400Fr + 60Fr postage, from Bertrand Sinais, address given above. (The latest scholarship on markings of the special bureaux, franchise, etc. markings, and administrative markings, of the 1575-1848 period.)
- General Niox, *La Guerre de 1870*; 150 pp., 12 colored maps of battlefields; 150Fr. + 30Fr postage, by check to A.I.H.P., c/o Bertrand Sinais, address given above. (A reedition of the 19th Century historical guide to the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871.)
- Andre Peine, *Cinq Siecles d'Histoire Postale, Cent Vingt Ans de Philatélie à Strasbourg*; 160 pp., softbound, numerous illustrations of covers in full color; 350Fr. + 40Fr registered postage; from Andre Peine, Boite Postale 4, F-67381 Lingolsheim Cedex, France. (Five centuries of Strasbourg postal history, on the occasion of the 120th anniversary of the "Union 1877" philatelic society; showing exceptional items from the collections of Union 1877 and SPAL members.)
- Jean Rousseau, *La poste aux chevaux en Seine-et-Marne et région Est de Paris*; 224 pp., 16 x 24 cm, 185 illustrations; 160Fr (+ postage?), inquire of Editions Amatteis, F-77350 Le Mée-sur-Seine, France. (Historical aspects of the postal routes, postmasters, etc., of that region.)
- *Catalogue des Oblitérations Mécaniques - Supplément 1996*; 72 pp.; 101.50Fr postpaid, from *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, 21bis, rue Claude Bernard, F-75242 Paris Cedex 05. (25th annual supplement, showing and pricing 702 illustrated slogan cancels that appeared during 1996 in France, Monaco and the DOM-TOM; useful for postmark collectors and for the thematicists.)
- Hubert Ronan, *Les Catastrophes Aériennes de 1920 à 1996*; 800 pp., illustrated; 240 Swiss Francs (+ 30SF postage), from Editions Secavia, 14 rue Lissignol, CH-1201 Geneva, Switz. [FAX 022/738 21 31]. (Chronological study, by an aerophilatelist, of air crashes that took place between 1920 and 1996.)
- R. Scott Carlton, *The International Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Philately*; 448 pp., hardbound; more than 8000 entries and more than 1000 photographs of stamps, etc.; \$39.95 + \$3.25 postage, from Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Oola, WI 54990-0001. (Includes a "quick identifier" for hard-to-identify stamps, translations of some 432 philatelic terms in up to 20 languages, and lots more.)
- Vincent Pothion, *France Oblitérations (sans Paris) 1849-1876*; 72 pp., (1998); 150Fr (+ 15Fr in France, more elsewhere), from La Poste aux Lettres, 17 rue du Faubourg Montmartre, F-75009 Paris [FAX 01 47 70 33 65]. (New edition of the standard handbook-catalogue, with value indices, of French postal markings (Paris excepted), 1849-March 1876.)
- Gérard Dreyfuss, *Catalogue des Oblitérations Mécaniques de France*, 2nd edition (1998); ca. 550 pp.; 395Fr + postage, from Editions Littéra, 18 Boulevard de Strasbourg, F-62000 Arras, France. (More than 18,000 machine cancels are described and evaluated; many of them illustrated; 1960-on SECAP cancels are excluded from this work.)

- Catalogue des Timbres Fiscaux et Socio-postaux de France; 156 pp.; 160Fr + 30F postage, from Maison Yvert & Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins; F-80036 Amiens Cedex 1, France. (The official priced catalogue of French revenue stamps, including socio-postal issues, Alsace-Lorraine fiscals, and communal tax stamps.)
- François Dupré, *Les Services de la Poste Française à Andorre à partir de 1931*; 44 pp. (A5 format), illustrated in color. From the Association Philatélique de Philandorre. No further details.
- Gregnac-Daudemard and Trinquier, *Mise en place de la Poste aux Lettres dans le Département du Var*; 42 pp.; 50Fr + postage, from the Musée Régional du Timbre et de la Philatélie du LUC, Le Château, Boite Postale 51, F-83340 Le Luc en Provence, France. (A study of the post offices and postal services in the Var Dept. through 1791; value indices given for the various manuscript and handstamp markings; printing limited to 200 copies.)
- G. Strowski, *Les Estampilles Postales Françaises au XX^e Siècle*; 320Fr + 30Fr postage, from Editions B. Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris. (A reprint of the 1933 edition, which has proven to be far from obsolete.)

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

You will find the Treasurer's Report for 1997 on the next page. A comparison with the report for 1996 shows that there was a small increase in the surplus in the General Fund. The Corresponding Secretary's Report, which appeared in the April *Philatelist*, shows a continuing small decline in our membership total. So far this year, the response to our solicitations for new members has been unusually low. Last year we recruited a significant number of new members at PACIFIC 97. We will not have a similar opportunity this year. Please encourage any of your colleagues who might be interested in French-Area Philately to join our Society. Our members should always be our best recruiters.

I regret to report that our most veteran director, Ira Zweifach, has recently been hospitalized following a stroke. For many years, Ira has been the program director for our monthly meetings at the Collectors Club in New York. We are all hoping for his recovery so that he will once more be able to get to meetings at the Collectors Club.

-- Dick Stevens

GERARD GILBERT AWARD FOR 1997

The Directors have voted to present the Gerard Gilbert Award for 1997 to Jun-Ichi Matsumoto for his book *The French Post Office in Yokohama*. This book was reviewed in the *Philatelist* for July 1997. The Society has purchased a copy of this book using money from the Eric Spiegel Fund, and has donated it to the library of The Collectors Club.

BALPEX '98

We invite all members to come to BALPEX '98, which is being held on September 4, 5 and 6, at Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland. The Inn is just east of Route I-83, at Exit 20E. There is ample free parking. Plans had not been completed at the time of this writing. We hope to sponsor at least two talks, one on Saturday and one on Sunday. The Show has offered us a hospitality suite; the host will be our rather puritanical president, so those who desire to imbibe will have to bring their own.

There will be no formal Society banquet. However, we plan to gather late Sunday morning for the buffet brunch which is served at the Inn. Information about all activities and reservations for the Sunday brunch will be available at the Society table, near the entrance to the Show area.

MEETING OF 5 MAY 1998

It was the Annual Meeting and all officers and Board members were reelected for another term. We were unhappy to note the absence of Ira Zweifach, who is recovering in the hospital. Ira has provided a monthly program since I joined the Society in 1972, and for many years before. We were pleased to welcome member John Levitt from England, who gave a superb presentation on May 6th at the Collectors Club on material with a British-French connection.

The program fell to me, and I once again provided a Colonial update, highlighting some new additions to my collections. About 30 items were shown and discussed. Among the most



Figure 1.

the amount to be collected. Completing this unusual piece was the packet strike: HAUT-BOUANGHI L.M.N. 3, 21 OCT 98 (Salles 1264) typically seen on military-franchise mail.

-- Ed Grabowski

TREASURER'S REPORT

FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC.

1/1/97 THROUGH 12/31/97

INFLOWS

Dues-Income:
19976,988.50

TOTAL Dues-Income6,988.50

Int. Inc.750.06

Publications
Back Issues47.00
Bordeaux34.00
Commune16.00
Gabon-Congo35.00
Glossary24.00
Index53.00
Ink Color3.00
Lozenges26.00
Luft II10.00
Luft III25.00
Transport Marks10.00

TOTAL Publications283.00

TOTAL INFLOWS8,021.56

OUTFLOWS

Ads312.00
Bad Check22.00
Gifts184.00
Meetings218.32
Philatelist:

Editor334.17
Envelopes103.15
Labels164.90
Magazine5,393.88

TOTAL Philatelist5,996.10

Secretary:
Corresponding872.78
Recording53.10

TOTAL Secretary925.88

Treasurer32.00

TOTAL OUTFLOWS7,690.30

OVERALL TOTAL331.26

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts	
F & C Saving	23,131.45
F & C Cash	0.00
F & C Checking	4,006.97
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	27,138.42

TOTAL ASSETS**27,138.42****LIABILITIES & EQUITY****LIABILITIES**

Other Liabilities	
Prepaid Dues	4,843.00
Spiegel Fund	1,208.59
Vaurie Fund	16,873.81

TOTAL Other Liabilities 22,925.40**TOTAL LIABILITIES**

22,925.40

EQUITY

4,213.02

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY**27,138.42**Respectfully submitted, William W. Wallis, Treasurer
5/5/1998Approved by the Board of Directors,
2 June 1998**NEW MEMBERS**

- 3167 MORVAY, ALAN, P.O. Box 48195, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (French Cameroun, French Equatorial Africa, Somali Coast. Postal History Of French Colonies In Africa, Especially World War II Censored Covers.)
- 3168 WEISS, JEFFREY K., P.O. Box 1580, Friday Harbor, WA 98250. (General France: Used. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. Colonial Provisionals. Group Type. Specific Colonies: Comoro Islands, Madagascar, Enclaves (Ste Marie De M, - Diego Suarez, Nossi Bé - Nossi Comba, All Issues to 1915.)
- 3169 GAURUDER, LAWRENCE, P.O. Box 1489, Sandwich, MA 02563. (General Collector: All Issues. Booklets.)
- 3170 WILZ, KENNETH J., 742 S. Lyman, Oak Park, IL 60304. (General Collector: 19th Century. Early 20th Century. All Colonies And Territories.)
- 3171 FERRAND, CLAUDE RENE, 3201 S. 23rd St. - Apt. 274, Abilene, TX 79605-5880. (All Territories And Colonies. Also 1st Day Letter Edition.)

REINSTATEMENTS

- 2104 SISMONDO, SERGIO, P.O. Box 6277, Station "J", Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2A 1T4.
- 2358 BESLU, CHRISTIAN, BP 5073 - Pirae - Tahiti, French Polynesia.
- 2643 GAETJENS, KAY, 34, Avenue Marceau, 75008 Paris, France.
- 2787 WATKINS, PAUL S., 77 Cubbington Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 74Q, England.
- 2733 BELL, SCOTT H., 250 S. Reynolds St. #1402, Alexandria, VA 22304.
- 1988 GRAY, GEORGE T., 440 Scott Park Dr., Iowa City, IA 52245-5138.
- 2912 ROTTMAN, MILTON, 3845 Park Avenue - #18, Fairfield, CT 06432-1237. (New Address).
- 2961 ROWE, PETER, P.O. Box 6721, Lake Worth, FL 33466.
- 3124 SCHNITZER, DR. JEFFREY H., 127 Concord Avenue, Lexington, MA 02173.
- 2814 LALLEVEE, THIERRY, 18 rue Du 8 Mai, 69110 Ste Foy-Les-Lyon, France.
- 2657 KNEE, STEVEN T., 24076 Old River Rd., Junction City, OR 97448. (New Address).
- 592 MYERS, NAT C., JR., 2 Reynal Crossing, Scarsdale, NY 10583.
- 2803 BARTLETT, BILL, Postmaster, Saanichton, B.C. V8M 1A0, Canada.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2733 BELL, SCOTT H., 250 S. Reynolds St. - #1402, Alexandria, VA 22304-4425.
- 406 VENGROVE, CHARLES F., P.O. Box 673, Wells, VT 05774.
- 1824 KELTON, EUGENE, 2312 Amherst St., Fort Collins, CO 80525.
- 1052 HAGAN, DR. A.S., 7035 W. Grand Avenue - Suite 104, Chicago, IL 60707-2143.
- 1873 SLEEP, CHARLES H., P.O. Box 146, Darlington, WI 53530.
- 2571 FARBER, MARTIN R., P.O. Box 91, Glen Oaks, NY 11004.
- 1334 SEEKE, ROBERT JOHN, 866 La Costa Lane, Buccaneer Estates, N. Fort Myers, FL 33917.
- 2355 COULBOURNE, FCCs JOSEPH C., 6 Yosemite Lane, Fredericksburg, VA 22408-2538.

DECEASED

2108 GALLAGHER, SCOTT

2583 RAPP, JANET L. C.

(Editor's Note: Although neither Janet nor Scott were primarily F&C collectors, they both became members because of natural curiosity and a thirst for knowledge, spousal collecting interests, and (in Janet's case at least) visits to family members in France. Our condolences have been extended to Shirley Gallagher and to Bill Rapp. I very much regret that we had only casual, occasional acquaintanceships over the years, and hurriedly, at one stamp show or another.)