



# France & Colonies Philatelist

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d'utiliser les bons  
spéciaux pour les  
commandes — Merci!



MAISON DE GROS  
**HENRI DORÉ**

Boîte Postale n° 30

**CHARTRES**

(Eure-et-Loir)

*Reputedly the only known envelope with an imprinted-to-order blue 15F Gandon stamp that was prepared for a firm outside of Paris. Sold for 10,010 Fr at Sinais' 35th auction sale (March 1997, Lot 10529).*

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Walter E. Parshall, 103 Spruce St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003, USA

All contributions to and questions concerning the contents and policy of this periodical should be sent to the Editor:

Stanley J. Luft, 16291 W. 56th Place, Golden, CO 80403, USA Phone 303-279-8587

e-mail: fcpesd@worldnet.att.net

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to Corresponding Secretary, 103 Spruce St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE SOCIETY

President: Richard M. Stevens,

P.O. Box 99, Greendell, NJ 07839, USA

E-mail rmstevens\_greendell@yahoo.com

Vice President: William W. Wallis

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# AN 1870-1871 AMAZING STORY

## [The Swiss "Gratis" Internment-Camp Label]

by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180)

With due respect to our prolific author of Amazing Wonder Stories, Ernst Cohn, who advised me that incoming interned soldier mail was not among his vast repertoire of Franco-Prussian background material, the story of the mail of the French soldiers who sought and received asylum in Switzerland has its interesting aspects. These 80-plus thousand troops of *l'Armée de l'Est*, led by General Bourbaki, crossed the border on 1 February 1871 and were housed in about 250 internment camps. Following a notice from the postal officials in Bordeaux that internee mail into unoccupied France forwarded by *Comités de Secours* (e.g. Red Cross) would require postage, the *Confédération Helvétique* elected on 3 February 1871 to authorize a gummed adhesive which would be distributed

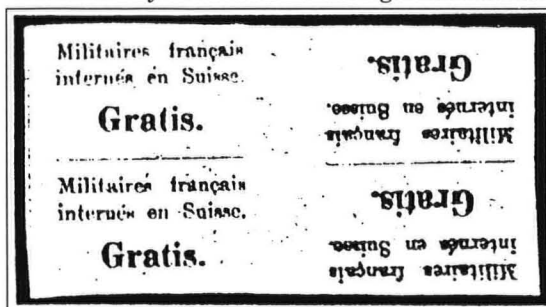


Figure 1. "Tête-bêche" printing of the Gratis labels.

arranged in two groups of 56 opposite an inverted two groups of 56 (Figure 1),

in the camps by Swiss officers for use on internee mail to areas of France not occupied by the Germans as well as within Switzerland. These adhesives have become known as the "Gratis labels," and are among the most desirable of Swiss issues when properly used on cover. These labels were printed by typography in sheets of 224



Figure 2. Thun, 28 February 1871 to Corrèze Dept. in unoccupied zone; legitimate use of the Gratis label.

based on a sheet in the Postal Museum at Bern, on paper of differing shades of reddish-violet. What is amazing is that to this date it is not known who printed these labels, nor how many different shades exist, nor how many were printed, nor exactly when they were provided to the various internment camps. One noted Swiss expert states<sup>1</sup> "they were used from 7 February on in the region of Berne, and from the 9th generally in all camps throughout Switzerland." Another well-known Swiss expert states<sup>2</sup> "on 7 February the labels were not ready for dispatch, but some covers exist which are manipulated by pasting on labels at a later time." However, Henri Kastler, a past president of *l'Académie de Philatélie*, identified a "carte officielle" with the Gratis label and a postmark of Schaffhausen dated 5 February<sup>3</sup>. This card appeared as Lot 8243 in Bertrand Sinais' mail sale of 23 February 1996, starting bid 5000 francs, and did not sell.

The authorization for the label provided for its use only on mail to areas not occupied by the Germans (Figure 2), and further that the label not be defaced by postmark or other cancellation. Figure 3 shows an early cover postmarked

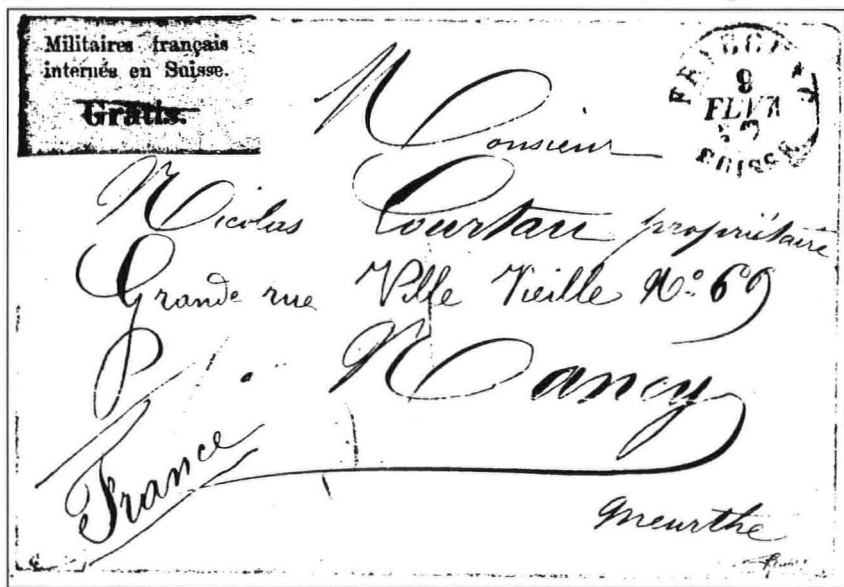


Figure 3. Fribourg, 9 February 1871 to occupied Nancy; "Gratis" crossed out and replaced with 50(c) postage due (illegible here) by German postal authorities.

Fribourg 9 February 1871 addressed to Nancy, which was occupied. The Germans accordingly crossed out "Gratis" and in blue crayon assessed 50c (twice the prepaid rate) postage due.

Mr. Cohn kindly translated and provided an excerpt from an article by Mr. Pittier, "Die älteste Portofreiheitsmarks - 1871," (The Oldest Franchise label) in which he states: "It is important to reference the very rare 'free of postage' marks which are found only in the first few days (after the directive granting free postage) until receipt of the specially created labels." Pittier identified as an example a cover to Lyon from "Gabory sergent fourrier" postmarked Lucens 4 II 71. Figure 4, from my collection, shows a very similar cover from Gabory whereby the Gratis labels had apparently not been received as of 7 II 71, bearing the franchise handstamp P.D (paid to destination).



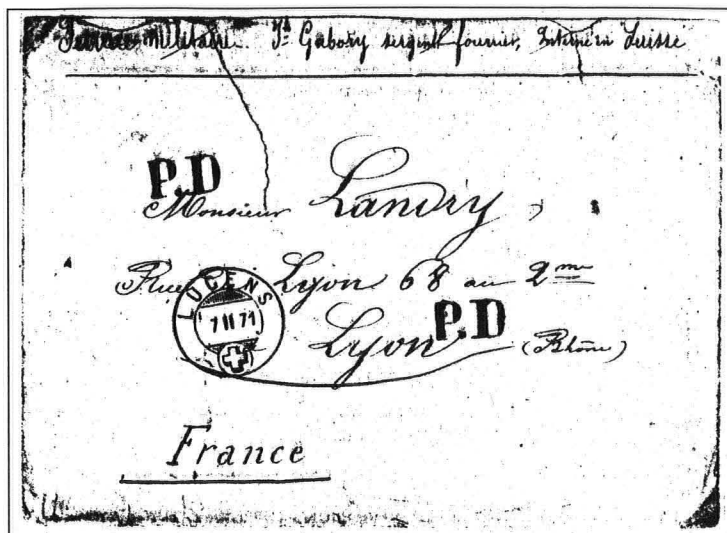


Figure 4.  
Lucens,  
7 February  
1871 to Lyon  
in unoccu-  
pied zone;  
Swiss P.D.  
(Paid to Des-  
tination)  
used for lack  
of a Gratis  
label.

Mr. Pittier kindly sent me copies of other covers postmarked at Lucens on 7 II 71, also bearing the P.D. handstamp. One cover carried the Gratis label and was annotated as an example of the fraudulent addition of such labels to increase the cover's value, inasmuch as these labels were not in use in Lucens on 7 February (Figure 5). My collection contains an additional cover from Luzern dated



Figure 5. Lucens, 7 February to Lyon [same correspondence as Figure 4] with extraneous Gratis label, probably covering a handstamped P.D.

8 II 71 (Figure 6) with a validating handstamp of the Swiss Federal Army and a boxed PD. Mr. Pittier provided a photocopy of a similar cover dated one day later, from an unidentified auction, to which has been added the label which he considers superfluous to the boxed P. P. and therefore "fake" (Figure 7). Even more striking is an article by Pittier in the "Swiss Stamp News" of December

1996 where he illustrated examples of the same cover before and after the spurious addition of the Gratis label (Figure 8), the purpose being of course to urge prospective buyers to exercise great caution.

Finally, we show an example of uncommon internal mail to internees which could be sent free ("Franco") but by persons who would not have access to the Gratis labels (Figure 9).

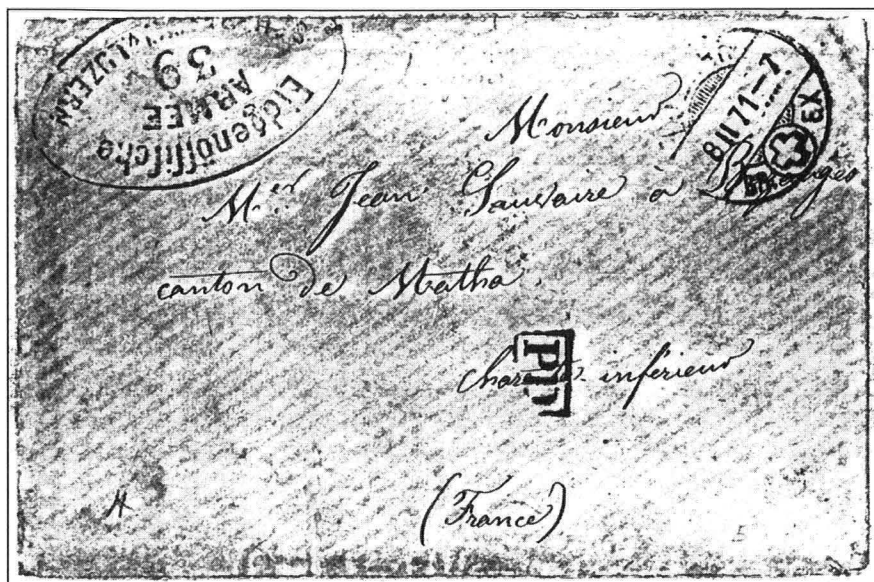


Figure 6. Luzern, 8 February 1871 to Charente Inférieure Dept. [unoccupied zone]; oval Swiss army franchise marking and French boxed PD (Paid to Destination).

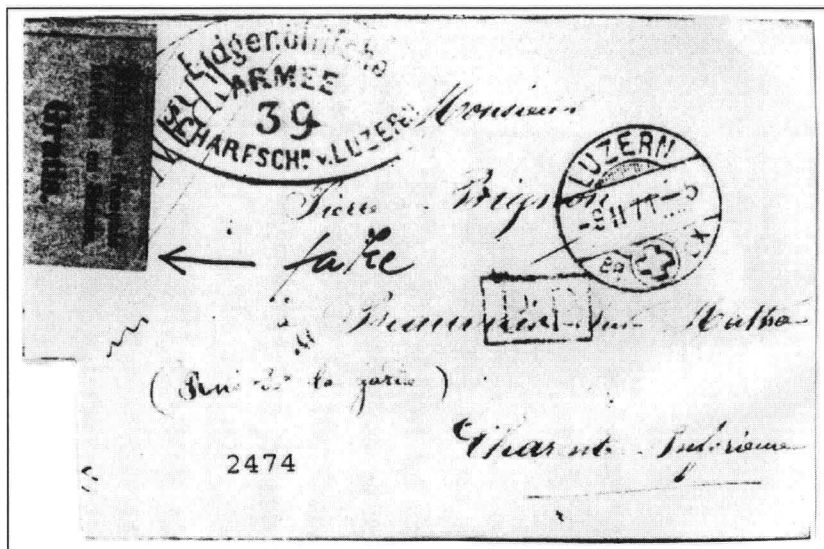


Figure 7. Luzern, 9 February 1871 [same correspondence, destination and Swiss army marking as Figure 6], plus boxed P.P. (Post Paid) and an extraneous Gratis label.

#### Endnotes

1. Personal correspondence from Georges Schild, July 15, 1996.
2. Personal correspondence from Raymond Pittier, October 4, 1995.
3. Article entitled *Internés Français en Suisse en 1871*, provided by FCPS member Thierry Lallévé of Lugdunum Philatélie.



Figure 8. Before (top) and after (bottom) the spurious addition of a Gratis label to an 8 March 1871 cover from Aarau bearing legitimate Swiss Red Cross markings.

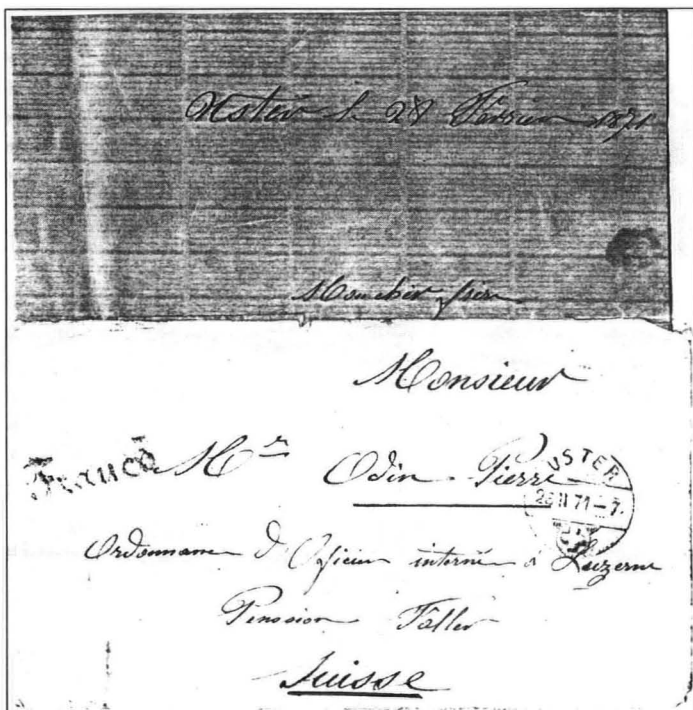


Figure 9. Uster, 28 February 1871, to another French internee; hand-stamped Franco being the only free-franchise marking necessary.

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

by Patrick Lavenas [continued from FCP #247, January 1997  
and #249, July 1997]

CNAP	Centre National d'Approvisionnement de la Poste
CNET	Centre National d'Etudes des Télécommunications
COMMER.	COMMERcial
COMMER.C.	COMMERCIal
CONG.	CONGrès
CP	Colis Postaux
CPP	Centre Principal de la Presse (J.O. 1992)
CRVT/CRUT	Centre de Répartition et de Ventes des Télécommunications
CTCI	Centre de Traitement du Courrier International
CTO	Centre de Tri Olympique (J.O. 1992)
C <sub>x</sub>	CedeX
DAAT	Direction de l'Approvisionnement et des Ateliers des Télécom
D <sub>AL</sub>	DépartementAL
DEP <sub>ALE</sub>	DEPartementALE
DRS	Direction du Réseau Sud
ENSTB	Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécom de Bretagne
EXPON	EXPositiON
FITEM	Festival International de la Télécommande Et du Modélisme
FNCA	Fédération Nationale des anciens Combattants d'Algérie
F <sub>SE</sub>	FrançaiSE
GAM	Guichet Annexe Mobile
GP	Groupement Postal
GRH	Gestion des Ressources Humaines
IDF	Ile De France
INT <sub>AL</sub>	INTernationAL
NAT <sub>AL</sub>	NATIONAL
OFF	OFFiciel
OMC	Organisation et Méthodes du Courrier ( <i>à confirmer</i> )
PCE	Procédures Civiles d'Exécution
PF	Plate Forme
PFM	Plate Forme Messagerie
PN II	Paris Nord II
PRO	PROfessionnel
PROSP	PROSPective
PS	Parti Socialiste
RENST <sub>S</sub>	RENSeignemenTS
RG <sub>AL</sub>	RéGionAL
RH	Ressources Humaines
SICAV	Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable
SNCF	Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer français
SP	Services Publics
TB	Télé Boutique
TEL	TELécommunications
TELE	TELEcommunications
TELECOMS	TELECOMmunications
TGV	Train à Grande Vitesse
VIRA	VIREment Accéléré
VO	Village Olympique (J.O. 1992)
<b><u>Abbrév.</u></b>	<b><u>Signification</u></b> (* present on ancillary markings)
*AD	Attestation de Distribution
*ART	ARTicle
*BA	Bureau Auxiliaire ( <i>Vu sur empreinte de machine à affranchir</i> )

*BF	Brigade Financière
*BGPEA	Bureau Géré par une Personne Étrangère à l'administration
*BM	Bulletin Mensuel (de l'administration des postes)
*BO	Bulletin Officiel
*Bord.	BORDereau
*BP	Bulletin de la Poste
*BVI	Boîte Valeur déclarée Internationale
*C	Catalogue ( <i>sur empreinte de machines à affranchir</i> )
*C	Coliéco ( <i>sur étiquette LISA</i> )
*C. de T.	Centre de Tri
*CACP	Centre d'Admission et de Contrôle de la Presse
*CDM	Centre de Distribution Motorisée
*CDP	Contrôle Douanier Postal
*CDT	Centre De Tri
*CDTXD	Conducteur De TravauX Distribution
*CE	ColiEco recommandé
*CFR	Centre de Facturation et de Recouvrement
*CH	CHargement
*CLE	CentraLE
*CO	Chargement d'Office
*CPN	Clos Par Nécessité
*CPS	Colis Postal voie de Surface
*CR	Centralisateur
*CR	Colissimo Recommandé
*CRBT	Contre RemBoursement
*CS	Centre de Supervision
*CTO	Centre de Traitement Optique
*CTR	Centre de Traitement du courrier ( <i>Erreur de gravure</i> )
*CTX	ConTentieuX
*CU	Centre Urbain
*DA	Dispensé d'affranchissement
*DT	Dispensé de Timbrage
*DTN	Direction du Transport National
*DTS	Droit de Tirage Spécial
*E	Ecopli ( <i>sur étiquette LISA</i> )
*ELIT	Équipement de Lecture d'Indexation et de Tri
*EMS	Express Mail Service
*En	Ecopli en Nombre
*Et	ETranger
*FA	Franchise Administrative
*Fasc	FASCicule
*FM	Franchise Militaire
*FNS	Fermé par Nécessité de Service
*FP	Franchise Postale
*G	Guichet
*GL	machine sécap pour Grosses Lettres
*IBFBG	Imprimante Bi-Fonction, Bicolore Graphique
*IG	Instruction Générale (des Postes)
*IN	Imprimerie Nationale
*ISA	Imprimé Sans Adresse
*ITVF	Imprimerie des Timbres et Valeurs Fiduciaires
*J+1 D	Jour + 1, colissimo Départemental ( <i>sur étiquette LISA</i> )
*J+1 N	Jour + 1, colissimo National ( <i>sur étiquette LISA</i> )
*J+1 R	Jour + 1, colissimo Régional ( <i>sur étiquette LISA</i> )
*JP	Journaux et Périodiques
*LC	Lettres et Cartes postales
*LRI	Lettre Recommandée Internationale
*LVI	Lettre Valeur déclarée Internationale

(to be concluded)

## THE TWO STATES OF THE 2,00 MYSTÈRE 20 AIRMAIL

The 2,00F airmail stamp of France showing a Dassault-Mystère 20 jet plane (Scott C41, Yvert Avion 42) was issued 12 June 1965. This line-engraved stamp was at first printed, "standing on its tail," on TD3 presses between 10 May 1965 and 18 February 1970. Individual TD3 stamps are 35.75 mm long.

The original die was later reused to prepare a new transfer roll (*molette*) for additional printings on TD6 presses. The new printings ran between 12 November 1971 and 13 October 1972. The stamp was now printed right side up, and individuals are 36 mm long.

Though but a single die and therefore a single "type" is involved, the fact that two *molettes* were made and used indicates that distinct **states** (*états*) should exist. In addition to the miniscule difference ( $\frac{1}{4}$  mm) in length, Pierre Marion has pointed out (*L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, December 1997), some minor differences in the dots about and within the 2,00 value. In TD3 printings, these dots are "normal" and very small (Figure 1). In TD6 printings (Figure 2), there is a

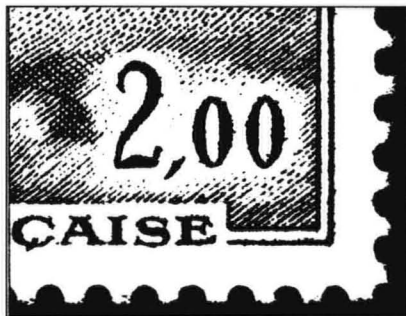


Figure 1. State 1 (TD3 press).

larger dot northeast of the 2 (A), an added dash inside the first zero (B), and an alignment of three extra dots between the zeros (C). [I've checked and it works, particularly for the differences at B and C.] These distinctions are noted, but in far less detail, and somewhat incorrectly as "Types 1 and 2" in the defunct *Marianne Catalogue Fédéral* of the mid-1980s.



Figure 2. State 2 (TD6 press).

Small potatoes perhaps. Still, collectors most likely probably own mint copies (and perhaps also *coins daté* blocks) of only the earlier issued (TD3) stamp, and therefore only have examples of State 1. State 2 is the far less common of the two. If you crave "completion," or wish to make your collection a more monographic one, you should consider checking your duplicates and also dealer stocks for used (and/or mint) copies of both states of the 2,00 Mystère 20.

--S. J. Luft



## ORDONNANCE OF 17 NOVEMBER 1844

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

The boxed cachet **ORDONNANCE/DU 17 NOVEMBRE 1844/—/(Art. 30 et 31)**, usually struck in red, was applied at any bureau to mail deposited there as free-franked, whenever the postmaster suspected that such a letter or parcel was **not** entitled to the free franchise. The marking thus served to attract the attention of the postmaster at the receiving bureau, and would require him to demand of the recipient the reason for this free franking. If there was no satisfactory explanation, the object became subject to taxation.

This marking (Figure 1) is N° 2084 of the *Catalogue des Marques Postales et*

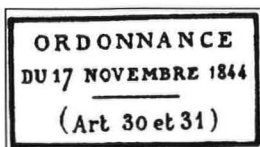


Figure 1. Marking N° 2084 of Rochette and Pothion (1958).

*Oblitérations de Paris 1700-1876* by André Rochette and Jean Pothion (1958). It is cited in a Circular of 12 February 1845 as the reglementary model. The marking is also shown in Figure 2, on a taxed 1859 printed circular sent under a wrapper of thin strips of paper. According to the *Dictionnaire Historique des Timbres & Griffes "Standard" de l'Administration Française des Postes, 1792-1914*, by J.-P. Alexandre (1996), the marking was used from 1 March 1845 until after 1914. Red at first, it was changed to black in April 1895.

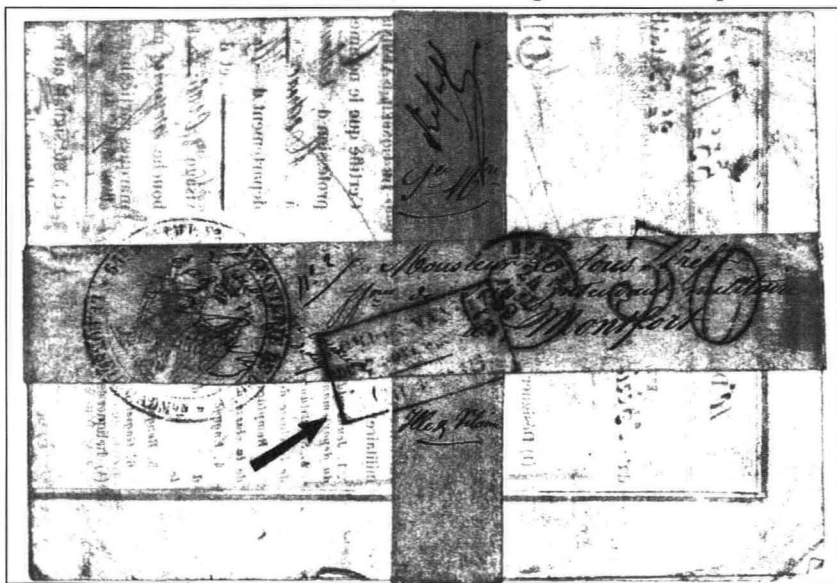


Figure 2. Printed circular sent under military franchise by council president of the 65th Line Regt. on 24 July 1859. Figure 1 marking (see arrow) applied at Béziers (Hérault Dept.). Item refused at destination and taxed 30c (1½ x letter rate). Reason: non-military campaign misuse of the free franchise.

Variations on the official model exist on early 20th Century stamps and covers (Figure 3), but Dr. Louis Goubin, writing in the March 1970 number of *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, considered them to be contrived fantasies—though perhaps, in some instances, applied by legitimate handstamp devices.

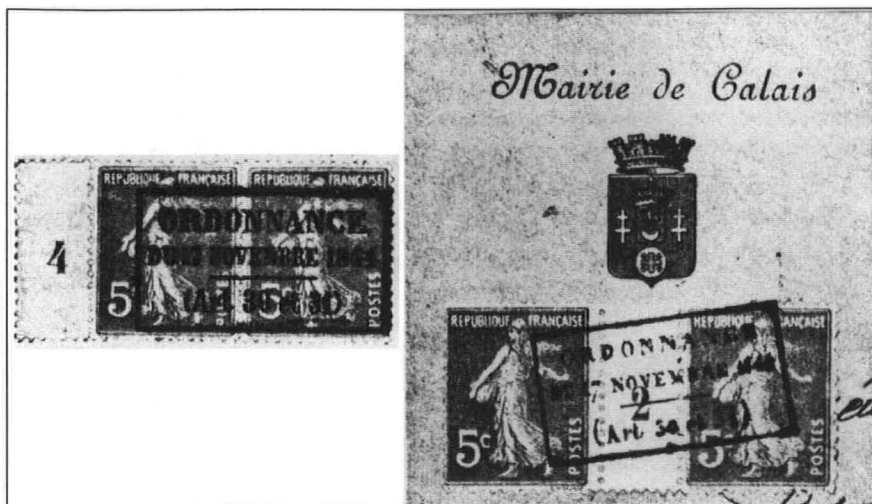


Figure 3. Some variant forms of the marking on what was probably philatelically inspired usage (Goubin, 1970).

## COLONIAL TIMES

by Ed Grabowski (FCPS #1469)

From time to time our editor asks me to highlight an unusual Colonial item from some recent sale. Typically, I have been feeding him postal history items. Stan keeps asking for something for the stamp collectors, so here we go. In Boule's 53rd (Spring 1998) auction sale, Lot 57 is the Nossi-Bé Taxe 16a, an overprinted postage due stamp. Yvert reports that 4500 of the 0.15/20c dues were overprinted on existing Dubois stocks to create the needed 15c due stamp. Because of an error, one *cliché* contained an 0.25 value. The printing error was noted and corrected, but eight copies of the error managed to escape. The item in the Boule sale (see illustration) is cancelled, and has a current catalogue



value of 235,000FF. It is a rarity of the first order, and signed by Brun. Bidding opened at 100,000FF and the lot was hammered down for "only" 100,511FF.

Between the end of the General Issues, the last issue being the Dubois Type, and the Group Type issue, which was the first Colonial definitive, most of the French Colonies overprinted existing stocks of the General Issues with new values and/or the name of the colony to fill in depleted stocks or identify the

colony of the stamp's origin. These provisional overprints were done locally, and generally very crudely. Often they were done in very limited numbers, and sometimes, regretfully, with the collusion of members of the stamp trade in Paris. Thus, we end up with many issues of poor quality, in limited numbers and with an uncertain background. To make matters worse, forgeries are frequently

plentiful, and with the simplicity and crudeness of the overprints, the forgeries are difficult to detect. Thus, collecting these issues is fraught with problems, and if a Colonial collector is inclined to collect these issues, they are best obtained from a reputable auction house or dealer, preferably with a certificate from a recognized expert. Bob Stone has done a superb series on these provisional issues which I recommend to all (*Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 49, 1970, pp. 271-292).

Usually, these issues are seen in sales as unused or used singles, as is the item noted above. About fifteen years ago, I had the pleasure of visiting the famous Paris dealer Edmond Berck. His beautiful multi-story premises is located just across from the Madeleine church. On arrival one morning, I managed to convey to the first-floor clerks in my non-existent French that I was a serious Colonialist, and I was shown to the second floor to meet Mr. Berck. His English proved to be the equivalent of my French, yet we had no problems communicating in the philatelists' international language. After expressing my Colonial interests, he asked me to name some of my favorite Colonies. He would then proceed to the walls which were covered with shelving filled with stock books and remove a few books. I particularly remember the Reunion, Senegal and Tahiti sections with all of their overprints on the General Issues. As he opened each of the books, he proudly noted that this was part of the 'Collection Berck.' He had a massive collection, and the overprint varieties (inverted, sideways, double, etc.) were often present in large blocks. What a treasure for study and expertization! I came away with one Group Type cover, and a facsimile of the 50F French airmail, where the **POSTE** and **AERIENNE** had been replaced with **BERCK**.

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## MEMBERS' APPEALS

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**WANTED:** Information on unlisted French Colonies Revenue stamps, for catalogue under preparation. Particularly, recent and new issues of the former Colonies that still issue revenue stamps, including Airport Departure Tax stamps. Perhaps you may have contacts with government agencies or consulates, or with dealers in the ex-Colonies, and be able to advise me of these contacts. All correspondence will be answered and contributions to the catalogue acknowledged. Donald L. Duston, 1314 25th Street, Peru, IL 61354, USA (e-mail: donldust@ivnet.com). (Mb #3101).

**OFFERS:** Long-time member of FCPS, and a full-time dealer since 1989, specializing in French Colonies before and after Independence, has a price list using Scott cat. Numbers that can be accessed via the Internet at <http://www.zillionsofstamps.com/dealers/dislerphilatelie>; Fax +41 32 489 12 58; e-mail [disler@blelstar.ch](mailto:disler@blelstar.ch) Or write to Duilio M. F. Disler, Boite Postale 9, CH-2606 Corgemont, Switzerland. (Mb. #2016).

**WANTED:** French covers from 1795 and 1796 of the following three tariff periods: 21 July-26 Dec. 1795; 27 Dec. 1795-2 July 1796; and 3 July-24 Dec. 1796. Also a 10c Paris local-rate letter from the 1870-1871 Siege of Paris. Connor Johnson, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, 825 Northeast 13th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73104; e-mail: [connor-johnson@omrf.ouhsc.edu](mailto:connor-johnson@omrf.ouhsc.edu) (Mb. #3175).

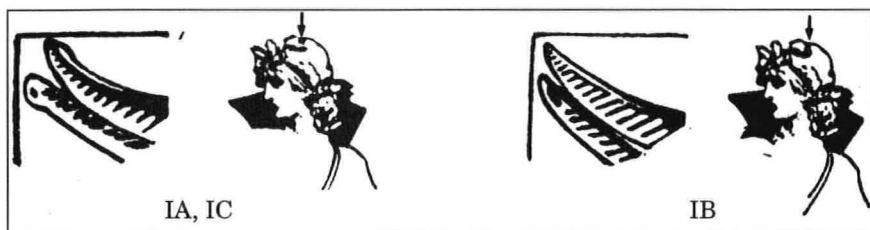
**WANTED:** Timbres de distributeurs (machine-printed stamps, both Framas and self-adhesives, as listed by Yvert). Prefer postally used but will consider unused. Do not want meters that are printed directly on the envelope. Write with descriptions and prices to Donald Kuske, P.O. Box 1692, Independence, MO 64055. (Mb. #3119).

**REVENUES FOR SALE:** France as well as most French Colonies. Also buying. Can also use Airport Departure Tax items from present and former colonies. Gordon Brooks, P.O. Box 396, Station N.D.G., Montreal, Quebec, H4A 3P7, Canada. (Mb. #2959).

## TYPES AND SUBTYPES

### 5c Blanc

Types IA, identified by shape of wingtip in upper left corner and by having small color spot (or none at all) at top of bonnet, was used for flat-plate sheet-stamps and stamped envelopes. All yellowish green (from early printings) are IA. Type IB has a more pointed wingtip and a vertical color spot in bonnet; this subtype used only for booklet stamps. Type IC has a more rounded lower loop in the **c** of value, commonly with a parasitic point inside loop; otherwise similar to IA; used only for stamped wrappers. Rotary-press sheet stamps are of Type IIA (see 3c Blanc for general identification characteristics). Rotary-press coil stamps are of Type IIB, which shows a broken hachure line below and right of big toe. Types IC and IIB are the least common.



## IRA ZWEIFACH (1913-1998)

### A Memorial

Ira Zweifach passed away 14 September 1998. At the time, he was a Director of, and the Program Chairman for, our Society. Previously he had served us in the capacities of Recording Secretary (1956), President (1957-1959), Editor of this Journal (1958-1963), Vice President (1964-1965) and President once again (1966-1969). He also held similar high offices in the Collectors Club of New York, sometimes almost concurrently with his posts in our Society. And he also put in a number of years in the 1970s as Editor of *Scott's Monthly Journal*. He had an extensive collection of France, with particular emphasis on the Sage issues, as well as collections of parcel post and pneumatic posts. So much for the dry facts.

Upon graduating from Columbia University in 1936, Ira turned an interest in photography into a profession. His specialty was entertainment and among his subjects were the likes of Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, Kate Smith, and the notoriously camera-shy Arturo Toscanini—whom Ira managed to photograph successfully while hidden inside a fake Greek column. During this time, Ira also began writing freelance articles for science fiction magazines. He joined the Army Signal Corps in 1942 and, prior to his 1943 assignment in Europe, he married Ellen Fuller. His photographs of the war in Europe are a part of the Army's Official History of World War II, and articles and columns he wrote often appeared in *Stars & Stripes*.

After the war, he put his cameras aside to pursue a career as a writer, editor and publisher. He penned everything from articles for *Life* magazine to comic books such as "The Green Hornet" and "The Shadow" and, as publisher, was responsible for two critically acclaimed children's magazines, *Dateline* and *Tim*.

Until his hospitalization in Spring 1998, Ira had been in charge of our Society's monthly meetings at the Collectors Club. He recruited the speakers, prepared and mailed the notices, and made the arrangements for the pre-meeting dinners. He also made the arrangements for the Annual Banquet until it was discontinued. Ira had a particular interest in good food and his familiarity with the restaurants of New York City was nothing short of legendary. Long before its appearance, Ira was a walking, talking "Zagat's." He believed in a certain, always elevated, level of dining out, and he was happy to admit that he had never eaten at a McDonald's. Magic also held his attention and he was an accomplished amateur magician.

To know Ira was to know someone who was not only intensely interested in life but knew also how to enjoy it. He deeply valued his friends—of whom more than 50 had gathered together for his surprise 80th birthday party—and fraternal organizations. His ebullience will be sorely missed.

He is survived by his daughter, Andrea, his son-in-law Jerry Carroll and a sister, Shirley.

—Ed Grabowski, Lou Robbins, Dick Stevens, and Stan Luft

## CORRECTIONS

Our keen-eyed colleague in the British Isles, George Barker has once again found an error of interpretation in our Journal. The 1862 cover from Precheur, Martinique to Paris, depicted on the cover of the July 1998 number (N° 253) is actually dated 11 DEC[ember] and not 11 October. The St. Pierre departure date is 11 or perhaps 14 December, and the entry marking into France is 30 December 1862.

And another one, also from Britain and Maurice Tyler, editor of our sister F&C periodical, who reminds us that the correct French spelling is *correspondances*. Which means that, in Paul Larsen's article in the October 1998 number (N° 254), the word is spelled correctly in the upper right of Figure 1 (p. 103) but, in the process of manipulating the image for Figure 2b (p. 104), it was the vertical bar of the **a** that got lost.

## AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES--41

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

Some of my friends are amazed at the fact that I keep supplying two editors with a never-ending stream of stories that come under the above caption. It is really not very amazing, though; it is because my friends supply me with suitable material and, of course, I keep my eyes open for same. When you have staked out a small area that you observe with a critical eye, it will continue to supply you with material, and all you need to do is **use** that material. The same is happening to me in another area of interest, energy and the environment (wonder what connections one might find between philately and E&E?). I cut out items from the daily press, from magazines, and from technical serials; presto, there is more material than I can use for the number of columns they will take from me, and I have voluminous clippings on which to fall back, should I ever run out of ideas, which is quite unlikely, because others keep furnishing them to me. I now understand columnists like Art Buchwald. Not that I could ever hope to emulate him, but I do comprehend why he has never run out of material—he gets it by the heap from the press.

Anyhow, here is an item a good friend of mine furnished to me that, I think, makes a real howler. The firm of Gärtner at Ludwigsburg (about which I never heard before) has lot 1719 in its September 1996 auction catalog, illustrating what it considers the first **genuinely used** card issued by the famous French dealer Maury, a card that shows massed flags and highly patriotic slogans in almost poetic French and truly atrocious German and that supposedly dates from the Franco-German War (Figure 1). Many of you have seen these cards that

come in all colors of the rainbow. It is one of a whole series of souvenirs, attributable to the fertile mind of Maury, which were printed for him and sold by him, only...after the war.

So how is it possible that one of these souvenirs, given away for years by dealers as a goodwill gesture, could be genuinely used, and to London to boot, with what appears to be a perfectly genuinely PAID ALL arrival mark?: Did one of you sharpies ask me about the year of the postmarks? As a matter



Figure 1.

of fact, the year of 1876! So, of course, it is all very legitimate, it's like my using a 30-cent Columbian stamp in 1937 or 1938 to pay the airmail postage on a letter I wrote from the US to Germany — an unused specimen with original gum (and a big tear in it, but the post office doesn't care about that). Anyhow, someone must have thought that it would be a lark to mail this souvenir with a then valid stamp, paying its postage to London W. And why not? It was probably one of those 'having-a-wonderful-time, wish-you-were-here,' cards mailed from the Tours railway station on 21 August 1876. Someone had written at the bottom left of the address side, in English!, 'LATE USAGE - RARE.' That is probably quite literally true, only who is buying that kind of rarity? The auctioneer estimated its value at DM 1200 or about \$800, which borders on total insanity. I wonder whether he got anything like it; though that is possible. Of course, the card as such was never official, no matter how many years after the war it



# FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST

## Index to Volume 54 (1998)

Stanley J. Luft, compiler

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No. 2 (	No. 252), April 1998
No. 3 (	No. 253), July 1998
No. 4 (	No. 254), October 1998

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\* \* \* \* \*



might have been used. Any postcard, in the US sense of that word, can be used that way, any time. Late use and rare, to be sure; but does it have any great value?

You could, if you find one today, probably send it by airmail to England and claim that it was an extremely late flight from whatever country you mailed it. You would certainly not be telling a lie. And if you wish to estimate its value at \$800, who could stop you from doing that? Anyone foolish enough to pay that much, however, ought to have his head examined.

A couple of weeks before I received the above funny intelligence, an anonymous friend sent to me, from Paris, the *GAZETTE DES "PHILOUTELISTES,"* for which I am still trying to locate an address. It is a funny little 4-page production about philatelic *filous*, i.e., pickpockets, thieves, or the like. I have sent a letter to the editor of that thing, through a French friend of mine, who might just know how to get in touch with these people, suggesting that they start a Hall of Fame for Philoutélistes — worldwide, of course — and I suggested that, if they are willing to publish it, I should like to write a nomination for the late A. Maury to be honorary member No. 1, because I think he richly deserves it.

There is a lot more going on in philately than what normally gets into print, and it is a shame that many philatelists are unaware of it. This column and surely that little periodical are among the attempts to acquaint our (mostly serious) crowd with some of these facts, which help *enlighten* readers and/or subject. Anyhow, have fun.

## TERRITOIRE DE L'ININI

The existence of the Territory of the Inini, indeed of the reasons for its creation and subsequent disappearance, have always been a puzzlement to some of us, particularly those of us who found a few of its stamps (mint, of course) in early-obtained packets. I feel that FCPS member Hervé Drye, writing in *Bulletin COL.FRA* N° 84, 1998, has explained it all very well, and has also dispelled some continuing errors of facts and dates.

Until 6 June 1930, French Guyana was a "simple" undivided colony. On that date, and until 19 March 1946, it was divided by Decree between the colony of Guyana proper, located along the coast and containing most of the inhabitants, and the much vaster inland Territory of the Inini. The coastal colony became a French Overseas Department (D.O.M.) on 19 March 1946. Inini remained its dependent territory, until that status was suppressed 14 September 1951 (Law N° 51-1098) and it became a simple ward within French Guyana, under the control of the department's prefect. Since then, on 17 March 1969, French Guyana has been split into two wards, roughly equal in size: Cayenne on the east and St. Jean du Maroni on the west, and the Inini became no more than a memory (if not a dead country).

The first postal issue, dating from 7 April 1932, consisted of bicolored French Guyana stamps overprinted TERRITOIRE / DE L'ININI. Variants of the overprint followed. A simple ININI was applied to the unissued Petain Vichy sets. Common-design Colonial type sets were issued in 1937 and 1939 and are the only ones that were printed with the Territory's name.

—S. J. Luft

## FRANCE, WORLD CUP CHAMPION—OVERPRINT, REPRINT, OR A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME?

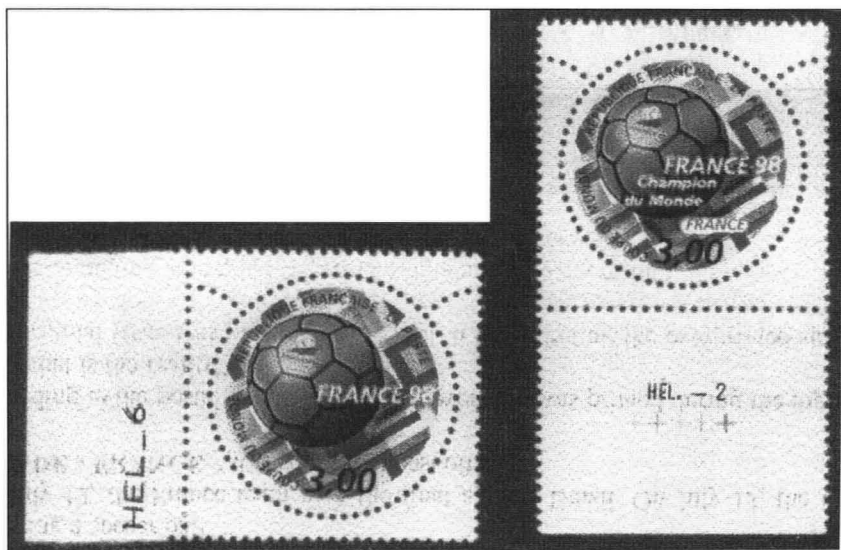
by Alain Kimmel (FCPS #3114)

France issued a lot of stamps (surely too many!) for FRANCE 98, the World Cup soccer competition. Among them was the first round French stamp, featuring a soccer ball.

On Sunday, July 12, 1998, the French team won the final game against Brazil. On Monday, July 13, the round stamp, now with an added "Champion du Monde / FRANCE" was already available to the public at post offices.

According to La Poste, this addition was overprinted onto existing stocks of the earlier round stamp during the night of Sunday the 12th, as soon as the result of the match was known. That's the tale. But, what is the reality?

*L'Echo de la Timbrologie* for September 1998 has hinted that this was a new stamp rather than an overprinted one. I concur. Furthermore, the examples I show here indicate that the original stamp was printed on the HEL (Heliogravure) -6 press whereas the "reprint" comes from the HEL-2 press. (Press



Original

"Reprint"

numbers have been enhanced for legibility by the Editor.] The papers also differ, the newer stamps being whiter, and the shades of blue aren't exactly the same. As it takes more than one night to prepare, print, gum, perforate and distribute a stamp, La Poste surely must have bet on a French victory and prepared the new version well in advance of the night of July 12-13. It certainly was a lucky bet!

*[Note added in proof: Apparently reliable sources indicate that the go-ahead to print the new (13 July) stamp was given as soon as the French team won its quarter-final match. However, we still don't know when the stamp was authorized, designed and prepared for printing--Editor.]*

## SOME SHOW REPORTS

- **ISRAEL 98** (Tel Aviv, May 1998, FIP) [Elaboration of show report in the October number]: Courtesy of *The London Philatelist*, the following FCPS members who are also fellows or members of the RPSL obtained the following medals: Large Gold to Steve Walske for "Classic Stamps of France"; Gold to Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith for "French Mediterranean Maritime Mail," and to Frederick Mayer for "USA - 5c 1856 and Usages"; Large Vermeil to Peter Smith for "Egyptian Post Offices." Congratulations to all!
- **APS Stampshow '98** (Santa Clara, Calif., August): Prix d'Honneur to Earle Plyler for "U.S. Domestic Two Cent Rates: 1792-1979", and to Jeff Weiss for "Postal Affairs of the Seychelles to 1902"; Gold medal to Frederick Mayer for "Nova Scotia 1789-1860"; Vermeil medal to Eliot Landau for his U.S. Registered Mail exhibit.
- **Omaha Stamp Show '98** (Omaha, September): Gold medal to Earle Plyler, for the above-named exhibit; Silver medal to Steve Washburne for an exhibit of Portugal & Colonies Travelling P.Os.
- **INDYPEX '98** (Indianapolis, Ind., September): Reserve Grand Award and Gold medal to Paul Larsen for "Federal Issues of the Leeward Islands 1890-1911" [Paul insisted that the full title be used here]. Other members present were George Fabian and Larry Gardner, both of whom I met for the first time. Your editor served on the jury.
- **BALPEX 98** (Hunt Valley, Maryland, September): A very good showing by our Society: The Grand Award and a Gold medal went to Ed Grabowski for "Guadeloupe: the Development of Stamps for Regular Postage." Other Gold medal winners were Dick Stevens for "France & Serbia—Allies in the Great War," Jeff Bohn for "The French ('FR') Accountancy Markings associated with the 1857 Franco-British Convention" (also the Postal History Society Medal), and Lewis Bussey for "French Naval Mail to America, 1943-1946" (also our FCPS Medal and the APS Research Medal); Vermeil medal to your editor for "The Philately of French Expositions, 1855-1952"; and a Silver medal to Bob Kinsley for his one-frame "French Internees in Switzerland." A one-frame exhibit by non-member Suzanne Haney on the "French Intervention in Spain, 1823-1828" was also very well received. Quite a total haul! Our president gave not one but two talks at the show. John Lievsay was one of the show judges.
- **Minnesota Stamp Expo 98** (Minneapolis, July): Reserve Grand Award and Gold medal to Eliot Landau for "The 6c Lincoln Large Bank Note Issues—1870-1889."
- **SESCAL '98** (Los Angeles, October): John Lievsay served on the philatelic jury and your editor on the literature jury. In spite of these obvious advantages, not a single F&C exhibit or handbook was entered in competition. Alas!
- **ILSAPEX 98** (Johannesburg, South Africa, October): Gold medal to Jeff Weiss for "Seychelles Postal Affairs to 1902"; Large Vermeil medal to Peter Smith for "Egypt Used Abroad"; Large Silver medal to Eliot Landau for an exhibit on Abe Lincoln.
- **ITALIA 98** (Milan, October-November, FIP): Gold medals to Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith and to Roger Quinby; Large Vermeil medal to Frederick Mayer; in the Literature competition, Vermeil to Jay Smith and Assoc., and Silver medal to Jean Haik. Sorry, but I didn't have the program to work from and therefore have no exhibit titles.
- **CHICAGOPEX '98** (Chicago, November): Gold medal to Roger Quinby for his Finland exhibit; Vermeil medal to Bob Kinsley for "French Somaliland 1890s to 1960s"; in the Literature competition, our *FCP* received a Vermeil medal, as did the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, edited by Dave Herendeen.

## RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

With the start of another year, it's once again time to ask you, the members, what can be done (within reasonable limits) to improve our journal and its contents.

While at SESCOAL '98 in Los Angeles, I judged (among others) *Korean Philately*, the quarterly journal of the Korea Stamp Society, Inc. (APS Affiliate 113). I couldn't help but notice that this journal runs around 130 pages per year, as does ours, though for a membership of barely over 120 (more than one page per member!). I find this truly astounding. In part, this is accomplished by filling several pages with Letters to the Editor. Admittedly, I do receive more letters from members than I print, on the premise that most are of interest only to the writer and me. Others may be paraphrased, and end up as Corrections, as Questions and Answers, etc. Still it would be great to hear from more of that large silent majority of members, on such subjects as what's been published and what perhaps should be. Or, just to show and describe a favorite stamp or cover. By the way, Korea Stamp Society members pay annual dues of \$25, or twice as much (give or take) as we do; another way of saying that FCPS membership remains a real bargain.

A good enough place and time to mention the publication "policy" of this journal. I use quotation marks here because any policy is subject to change as circumstances arise. Our **preference** is to present original articles and shorter contributions. From time to time, we will publish English translations of worthy articles from the French philatelic press. We may also publish articles more or less jointly and simultaneously with other periodicals, such as the *Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society* [of Great Britain]. And finally, as space permits and members request it, we may on occasion reprint older articles from our *Philatelist* or other journals. But, and while we can, original material of philatelic significance shall receive preference. So please think about writing something!

I probably need to reiterate that *prêt-à-poster* (preprinted indicia) postal stationery, because of their superabundance as vehicles for numerous cachets for all occasions, as well as acting as major assault vehicles upon collectors' pocketbooks, are **not** covered in "New Issues and Withdrawals." The only exceptions will continue to be those showing current definitive stamps as indicia and without extraneous embellishment. One such (a postal card) is listed in this number's New Issues and Withdrawals. Perhaps somebody who religiously collects all *prêt-à-poster* stationery may wish to contact me and offer updated lists to any interested parties.

I am happy (and relieved) to announce I now have a functioning e-mail address, in partial replacement of the still recalcitrant Fax. The address is <fcpsed@worldnet.att.net>

### Articles to be published in future numbers

Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories (continuation)

The Carnet Corner (continuation)

French Marcophily (continuation)

Occasional Fundamentals (only extremely occasionally)

A Journey to the Crozet and Kerguelen Islands

Use of the boxed "Transportée Exceptionnellement Par Avion" on mail from Monaco

Airmail Letter Rates from French West Africa to France through 1945

In-City Mail Service in 18th Century Paris

Senegal: Prepayment in Cash in 1902

A Classification of the Vehicular Post Date Stamps of New Caledonia

Is there a Doctor in the House?—Again

The Green on Blue



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

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- An exposition of the "world's greatest philatelic rarities" will take place at Monaco's Musée des Timbres et de Monnaies, 12-14 February. Unfortunately, it will be by invitation only and will not be open to the general collecting public. Talk about elitism in philately! Obviously, some philatelists are more elite than others, as George Orwell might have put it.
- The house of Yvert & Tellier, publisher of the popular French catalogue, now has a web site: [Http: // www.yvert-et-tellier.fr](http://www.yvert-et-tellier.fr) Its e-mail address is: [mail@yvert-et-tellier.fr](mailto:mail@yvert-et-tellier.fr)
- Henri Garcia became president of the *Chambre Nationale des Experts et Négotiants en Philatélie (CNEP)*—the major French association of stamp dealers—in May 1998, succeeding Roger Calves.
- Ernst Cohn gave the Fourth Stuart Rossiter Lecture on 21 November 1998 at University College, London. His topic was (naturally!) Amazing Wonder Stories from the Franco-German War of 1870-1871.
- Dave Herendeen is the new editor of the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, house organ of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (APS Affiliate N° 27). That makes at least five FCPS members who are editors of philatelic periodicals. Who are the others, you may well ask, other than yours truly? George Barker (*The London Philatelist*), Jean Haik (*Le Rekkas*), and Peter Smith (*The Collectors Club Philatelist*). Have I missed anyone else?
- The rather recently discovered (or described) 50c Paris 1937 Exposition stamp with attached booklet tab (Scott 318 var., Yvert 325 var.) went for 55,010Fr in Patrice Robin's 29th Paris auction (October 1998), Lot 1103). No, I restrained myself even though it "belongs" in my Expo exhibit...
- As an addendum to Ernst Cohn's treatise on the rare misspelled *In Slchettstad / vorgefunden* (N° 254, October 1998, p. 108), the St. Omer to Büchswiler cover he discusses was sold recently by member Thierry Lalleveé (Lugdunum Philatélie N° 31, October 1998, Lot 163) for 13,299Fr.
- Currently available catalogues of philatelic literature are: (1) James Bendon's September 1998 listing, from James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 6484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus; fax + 357 5 311 228; e-mail [jbendon@ibm.net](mailto:jbendon@ibm.net) and (2) Leonard Hartmann's 23rd Stock Catalog, from L. H. Hartmann, P.O. Box 33006, Louisville, KY 40233; fax + 502-459-8538; e-mail [pbbooks@ibm.net](mailto:pbbooks@ibm.net). Both of these fine dealers also have web sites.
- Member and revenue specialist Don Duston is working on an updated catalogue of French Colonies revenue stamps. Please see his Member's Appeal elsewhere in this number if you can help in any way in adding to the database for this most worthy project.
- The Oberthur company, long-established security printers in Bretagne, has signed a contract to print some U.S. stamps in the near future.
- I'm extremely pleased to announce that our Journal received a Vermeil medal in the Literature competition at CHICAGOPEX '98. Though I'm still (anxiously) awaiting the written critique, I fully realize that Vermeil (as against the Silver obtained some three years ago) is the highest level our Journal can expect to receive. Gold is "reserved" for slick, professional productions such as *The American Philatelist*, *Postal History Journal* and *The Collectors Club*



*Philatelist*. So, it's a good feeling to know we've reached the top rung of "our class." Now it's up to you contributors to help maintain that level.

- A new postal museum opened September 1998 in the Château of Montrond-les-Bains, Loire Dept.
- *Aposte mobile* was inaugurated in New Caledonia on 1 July 1998, replacing an *annexe-mobile*. Working out of the Moindou post office, the vehicle services three different circuits during the work week. Its handstruck date stamp reads P. MOBILE MOINDOU / NOUVELLE CALEDONIE.
- *La Philatélie Française* may be resurrected in 1999, with a projected ten issues of 24 pages each, per year, at a subscription price of 100Fr. But, they'll need a minimum of 5000 advance subscriptions before resuming publication.
- Saint-Dié (Vosges Dept.), whose Tower of Liberty was commemorated with a stamp issued 3 (5) October 1998, considers itself to be the "Godmother of America." It was here in 1507 that the first map to depict the New World, and the name "America" (in honor of Amerigo Vespucci), was printed.
- The 2,70 green Marianne de Luquet has been found, without any trace of a phosphor band, on mail posted from March 1998-on, from several scattered departments of France. Part or all of the 21 January 1998 RGR1 printing seems to lack the band. Some mid-November 1997 RGR printings may show partial to complete absence of a band. Check your holdings!
- The St. Pierre and Miquelon Study Group has moved west, is now the St. Pierre and Miquelon Philatelic Society, and has a new president, FCPS member David Allen. The society is not affiliated with ours, although both have a number of members in common. For information, contact Mr. Allen at Unit #14/7 Birch Bay, Leisure Park, Blaine, WA 98230; e-mail <dallen@axionet.com>

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## NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

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(Continued from N° 254, October 1998, p. 120)

### France

- 21 May 1998: Postal card (*Carteposte*) with red, permanent-value Marianne de Luquet indicia, sold at 3,50F;
- 12 (13) July: 3,00F round FRANCE 98 stamp of 2 March 1998, with added inscription in white, "Champion du Monde/France" (See story on p. 18);
- 31 August: date of issue of previously reported 1,87F and 2,18F flower precancels; also 4,66F and 7,11F flower precancels [same values as on earlier leaf precancels--which remain valid until 30 January 1999];
- 12 September: booklet of ten self-adhesive permanent-value M. de Luquet stamps, white cover with PHILEXFRANCE 99 logo, sold at 30F;
- 1 (5) October: 3,00F Salon de l'Auto;
- 3 (5) October: 3,00F 40th Anniv. of the Constitution of 1958; 3,00F Saint-Dié (Vosges); Cinema Actors (Romy Schneider, Simone Signoret, Jean Gabin, Louis de Funès, Bernard Blier, Lino Ventura), six at 3,00F + 0,60F; booklet of same at 21,60F;



- 17 (19) October: 6,70F Art of Marcel Duchamp; 3,00F "1914-1918" (Flags of the Allies);
- 24 (26) October: UNESCO 3,00F and 3,80F;
- 3 (6) November: 3,00F World Union for Nature (UICN);
- 5 (9) November: Red Cross 3,00F + 0,60F; same in 36F booklet of ten stamps + two labels;
- 7 (9) November: Christmas Greetings sheetlet of ten 3,00F stamps (five different stamps);
- 21 (23) November: 3,00F Doctors without Borders;
- 5 (7) December: 3,00F European Parliament, Strasbourg; 6,70F Art of Gauguin.

**Withdrawals:** 9 October: 3,00F Citeaux Abbey; 3,00F Bicent. of union of Mulhouse with France; Best Wishes: 3,00 cat and mouse and 3,00F mail carrier; 3,00F St. Pierre, Reunion; 3,00F Art of Magritte; 4,50F Edict of Nantes; 6,70F Art of Chardin.



### Andorra

- 16 November 1998: 18th Century Maps of the Valley of Andorra, 3,00F and 15,50F.

**Withdrawals:** 9 October: Three Andorran Legends triptych.

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

- Late October 1998: 5,20F 40th Anniv. of International Geophysical Year.

### French Polynesia

- 10 September 1998: 200F Polynesian undersea world;
- 5 October: Papeete of Yesteryear 250F + label + 250F;
- 28 October: 85F FRANCE 98 World Cup, overprinted(?) "FRANCE/champions du Monde."

**Withdrawals:** 31 December 1998: Painters of Polynesia (four stamps); 600F Gauguin painting; 118F Children's Noël 1997; Heiva dance costumes (three stamps); 88F Anniv. of the "Kon-Tiki."

### Mayotte

- 7 September 1998: 3,00F Tsingoni Mosque;
- 5 October: 2,70F portrait of Mariama Salim;
- 9 November: 2,00F Fishing at Djarifa; 3,00F Emperor fish of Mayotte lagoons.

**Withdrawals:** 31 December: 2,70F Ylang-ylang flower; 20F inauguration of airstrip; 3,80F Banga; 5,20F Dzen Dzé; the series of Marianne de Briat stamps overprinted MAYOTTE.



### Monaco

- 24 June 1998: Artisanal works of prestige 8F, 9F;
- 3 August: Cacti 2,70F, 4F, 6F, 7F; 15F World Cup soccer;
- 14 August: 7F Enzo Ferrari; 7,50F George Gershwin;
- 4 September: 4,50F Intern. Conf. on Sea Pollution; 5F "Post Europ" Plenary

- Assembly; 6,70F LISBON 98 Exposition;
- 14 September: 4,20F Intern. Assoc. against violence in Sports;
- 26 September: 3,50F Monte-Carlo Magic Stars; 11,50F 400th Birth Anniv. of Bernini.

### New Caledonia

- 16 June 1998: 1650F booklet, in panes of six, of the four Tjibaou Cultural Center stamps;
- 21 August: 70F mail carrier and dogs; 110F 50th Anniv. of election of first president of the commission of chiefs;
- 5 September: 80F Cent. of the Arab presence; Vasco de Gama: four 100F se-tenant stamps and sheetlet of three 70F stamps;
- 5 October: Regional landscapes 100F and 100F;
- 21 October: Endangered birds 5F, 10F, 15F, 70F;
- 5 November: 155F vue of penitentiary on Nou Island; 70F Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man.

**Withdrawals:** 31 December: 250F First Melanesian prefect; 95F (x2) First commercial TRAPAS flight; 65F (x2) horse racing in New Caledonia; 150F Election of first Melanesians; 95F early view of Port-de-France; 100F sea horse; 95F and 100F Noël 1997; Art of the South Pacific (three stamps).

### St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 5 October 1998: 3,00F France in North America; Cap Bleu landscape 15,50F + label + 3,00F triptych;
- 26 October: 3,00F France wins the World Cup.

**Withdrawals:** 10 July 1998: 3,00F Alain Savary; 14 August: 15,50F + label + 3,00F Cap aux Basques-Diamant triptych; 9 October: 3,80F post office building; 31 December: all Marianne de Briat stamps (and booklet) overprinted for use in the islands.

### Wallis & Futuna

- 25 August 1998: Corals of the Wallis lagoon 4F, 5F, 10F, 15F;
- 22 September: 106F Cricket playing on Wallis;
- 27 October: 700F 150th Birth Anniv. of Gauguin;
- 5 November: 175F 52nd Autumn Philatelic Salon (Paris);
- 17 November: 460F "The Garden of good fortune";
- 1 December: 62F World AIDS Day;
- 15 December: 250F Polynesian Dancer.

**Withdrawals:** 31 December 1998: 130F Inauguration of Hihifo airport; 160F Anni. of Avignon Festival; 35F Berlin handicapped sports event; 300F Sunset over the lagoon; 24F Karate at Wallis; [4th World stamp competition(?) stamp + sheetlet--issue unreported, values unknown to us]; 800F Death Anniv. of Marshal Leclerc; 5F Campaign against AIDS; 710F Death Anniv. of Alphonse Daudet; 85F The Nativity at Wallis & Futuna.



## THE AERIAL CONNECTION ALEPPO-ALEXANDRETTE

by Jean-Bernard Parenti

*Translation, with minor modifications, by E. E. Fricks and S. J. Luft, of the author's "La Liaison aérienne Alep-Alexandrette," which appeared in Documents Philatéliques N° 153, 1997; published here with the permission of the author and of the editor of Documents Philatéliques.*

On the day following the Moudros armistice (30 October 1918) that ended hostilities on the Great War's Eastern Front, the Allied Occupation authorities began to reestablish the civilian postal service. Transportation of civilian correspondence was undertaken simultaneously with that of the military. The mail was totally under the control of the treasury and posts of the French *Armée du Levant*.

The several administrative and postal entities extant were unified within a Syrian directorate-general of posts, created in 1920. However, as this postal administration had few resources at its inception, the administrative arrangements evolved only gradually. The aerial connection between Aleppo and Alexandrette provides a perfect example of this transition.

From October 1920, a postal service was organized between the two cities through the efforts of the civil posts of Alexandrette and Aleppo. Mail conveyance was undertaken in two segments: Alexandrette-El Hamman and El Hamman-Aleppo (Figure 1). Undertaken by mounted civilian couriers escorted by native policemen, the first segment consumed a day, while the second stage required from one to three days. The mail consisted solely of ordinary letters because registered mail travelled by the Damascus-Hama and beyond ("D.H.P.") rail line (Figure 2) to Beirut and then by boat to Alexandrette. This journey between cities but a hundred kilometers apart consumed a fortnight.

The military authorities estimated that the postal road by way of El-Hamman lacked sufficient security to handle registered letters and packets. Indeed, the region became the theatre of confrontation between the French army and groups of "kemalists" [*partisans of Mustapha Kemal Atatürk* – Ed.], rendering communications between Aleppo and Alexandrette very precarious. Nevertheless, orders were given to use this service for ordinary official correspondence, though no letters were actually dispatched. Thus, a project for aerial service began to take form.

On 7 November 1920, Gen. Garnier Duplessix, commander-in-chief of the *Armée du Levant*, confirmed the date of 20 November for the beginning of a thrice weekly aerial postal service, reserved initially for military correspondence, but with civilian utilization after 1 December. Flights would be undertaken using Bréguet 14 aircraft belonging to the 55th Levant Aero Escadrille.

This service was organized and operated under the following conditions: only ordinary letters not exceeding 60 gm were admitted; other objects such as samples, printed matter, newspapers, closed packets and parcel post were provisionally excluded. Registered and value-declared letters were not accepted. Applicable postal rates in order of progression were:

11 Syrian piasters for up to 20 gm

6 Syrian piasters for each additional fraction of 20 gm

Senders gave their mail to a specially designated agent of this operation at one of the windows of the civil post office. After having weighed the correspondence, the agent affixed ordinary postage stamps<sup>1</sup> (of 10, 5 and 1 piasters) overprinted POSTE PAR AVION<sup>2</sup> (Figure 3), and which they then cancelled. The letters were then tied into bundles and inserted into a sealed bag. The bag was entrusted, after a receipt had been obtained, to the postal sector that would deliver it to the airplane's pilot. Upon arrival, the bag was deposited with the

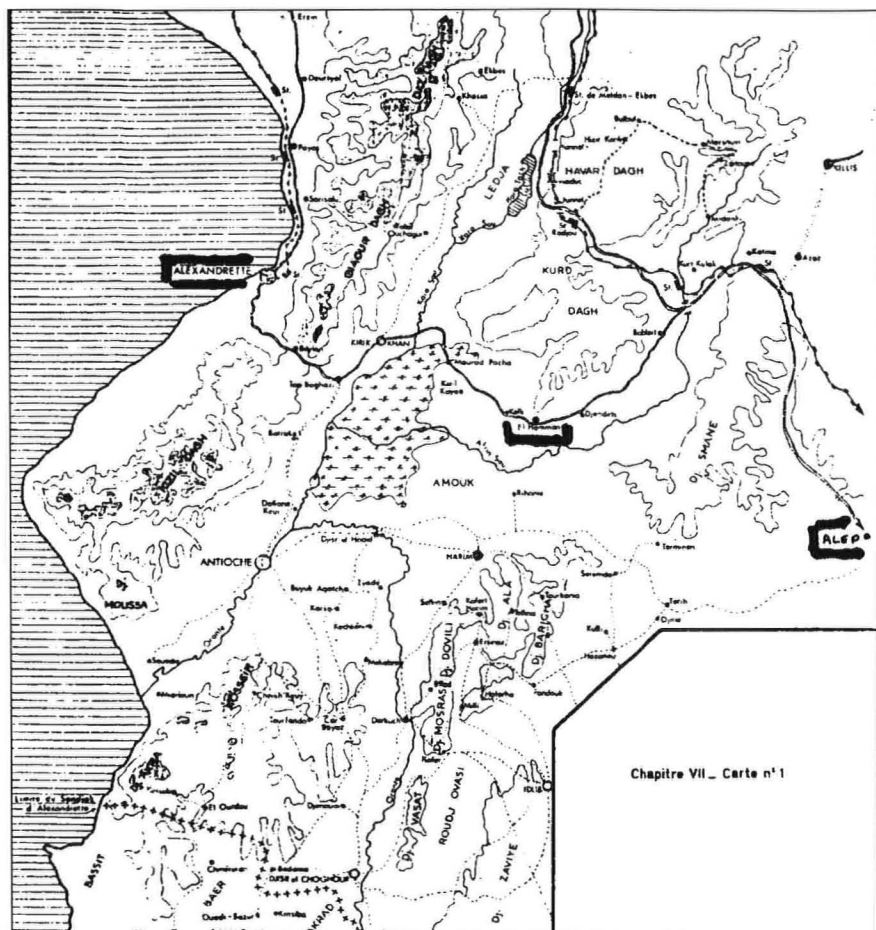


Figure 1. Map of Syria, showing the surface route from Alexandrette (on coast), inland via El Hamman, to Aleppo.

military postal sector, which delivered it to the civilian post, which distributed the contents as ordinary correspondence. The departure bureau maintained a specific postal registry where it had to determine:

- the names of the correspondence's destinations,
- the total postage paid,
- the share returned to the civilian post, an internal accounting of 1 piaster per 20 gm,
- the share returned to the *Armée de Levant*.

At the end of each quarter, a summary statement was submitted by the agent to the postal sector of the *Armée du Levant*. These sums formed the total of the payment to be made by the civilian post and, via bookkeeping ledger, were deducted against telegraphic fees due in the same year. Although the first trip transported no civilian letters, the second carried about ten. With the success of this service, other internal airmail lines were created, such as the Aleppo-Deir ez Zor line in 1922.



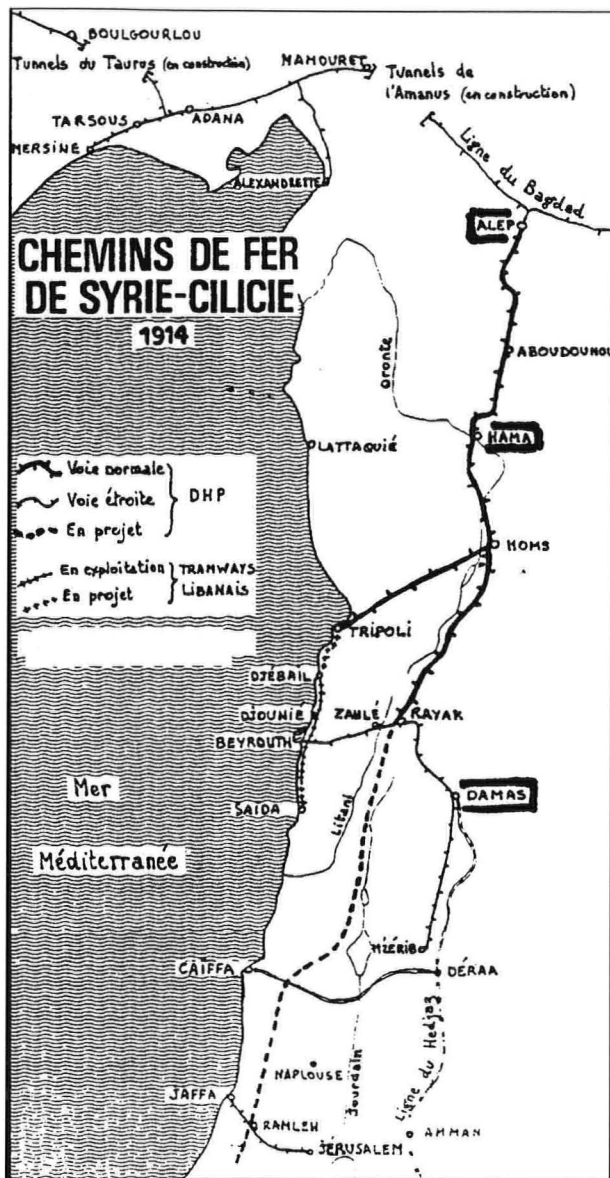


Figure 2. Map of the 1914 railways (actual and projected) of Syria.



## Endnotes

1. Philatelically, there were three issues: the first of November 1920 to May 1921; the second with the same overprint but on other values, in June 1921; the third in October 1921. For this last issue, the overprint was executed by typography in black; only the word AVION was used, printed vertically along the right side of the stamp.

2. The plan initially anticipated providing the Aleppo and Alexandrette offices with a "POSTE PAR AVION" handstamp. Article 3 of the regulations specified: "...will apply the necessary markings that will obliterate and overprint by means of a special handstamp 'Poste per Avion.' Some days later, the Director General of Posts revised this and decided to overprint the stamps at Beirut, fearing to confide such a handstamp to agents of the two offices.

## Bibliography

Inventory of the Archives of the Levant: Sub-series 4H, cartons 4H200 and 4H201, *Service Historique de l'Armée de Terre*, Vincennes.

General du Hays, *Les Armées Françaises du Levant*, vol. 2, Château de Vincennes, 1979.

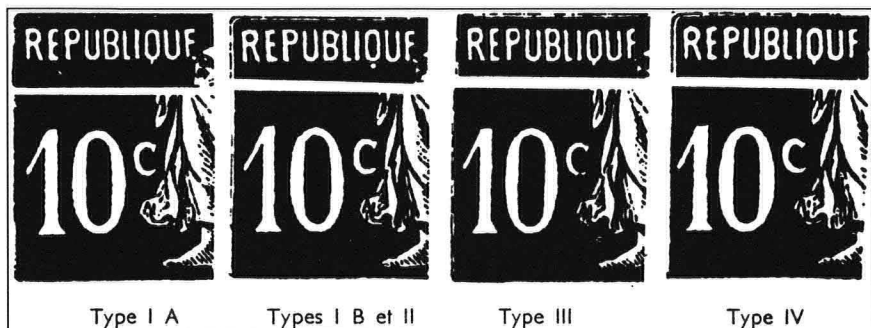
Jacques Thobie, *Intérêts et impérialisme français dans l'Empire Ottoman*; publication of the Sorbonne I.N. 1977.



## TYPES AND SUBTYPES

### 10c cameo Sower

**Type IA** (flat-plate sheets of the red, and then the green stamp, and the rare coils produced from these sheets; also letter cards imprinted with red stamp): base of **Q** of REPUBLIQUE formed by a bar [may show only as a small point in poor impressions]; **c** of value is oval, flat on left side, and has equidistant ends. **Type IB** (used only in the 1922 rotary-press printings of the green stamp): base of **Q** formed by large dot, otherwise like IA. **Type IC** (red stamp: booklets with and without publicity tabs (pubs), imprinted postal cards and envelopes; green stamp: booklets without pubs): **Q** as in IA; broken shading line in sowing hand; base of rear foot whiter than in IA. **Type II** (found only on red booklet panes of six stamps, without pubs, that were printed on very white paper with cross-hatched gum): base of **Q** formed by large dot; legs of **R** of REPUBLIQUE lie on same plane; inscriptions generally larger than in Type I. **Type III** (rotary-press sheets of the green, and then the ultra-marine stamps; flat-plate and then rotary-press precancels on sheets of green stamp): base of **Q** formed by vertical bar; left side of **c** of value rounded, with upper end extending farther right than does lower. **Type IV** (green, then ultramarine coil stamps, including precancels): **Q** as in Type III; left side of **c** rounded, with lower end extending farther to right; **1** of value thicker than in other types.



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## REVIEWS

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Dr. J. F. Gibot, *Autour de 1848 — De la Révolution de 1848 (22 au 24 février) au 20 décembre 1848: l'Insurrection de juin 1848 à travers les correspondances de l'époque.* [Around 1848 — From the Revolution of 1848 (22 to 24 February) to 20 December 1848: The Insurrection of June 1848 as described in letters of the time.] Supplement to No. 293 of *Les Feuilles Marcophiles*, 36 pp., 8½x11¼", ills., softbound, 60 francs from L'Union Marcophile, 47 rue de Maubeuge, F 75009 Paris, France.

According to the author's foreword, the study is based on two books by Maurice Agulhon about the historical events; on the author's own extensive collection of covers and documents, augmented by additional material in the collections of several of his colleagues; and on two archives containing postal historical documents, one dealing with the pre-revolutionary period and consisting of mail sent to Henri Saint-Romme, attorney general of the Republic's Assembly; the other, a collection of private letters, beginning in that same period but extending to 1850 and thus covering the suppression of what had been called "The Peoples' Spring."

Though the uprising of 1848 was a significant political event not restricted to France but with consequences in much of Europe, it is a political event that did not affect postal history, though it has evidently left its traces in letters and official papers typical of mail of that day. In addition, a number of people who played prominent roles then also did so in the Franco-German War, and at least three Paris siege balloons carried the names of 1848 politicians. A number of official letters and of administrative markings and forms especially created because of these events are presented. Also, a list of places of detention takes up just over three pages and cachets from a few of them are illustrated. Evidence of censorship of the mail of those arrested is presented and described. Pages 34-35 contain summary biographies of the principal personalities, again useful for those interested in the 1870 war.

Paper, printing, and quality of illustrations are excellent. An obvious printer's error occurs in the case of Louis Blanc, said to have died in 1842, but who returned to Paris in 1870. A good knowledge of French is essential to understand the work fully.

--E. M. Cohn

Jean Lerat, editor, *La ligne de télégraphie aérienne Chappe Paris-Strasbourg*, [The Chappe Aerial Telegraph Line from Paris to Strasbourg], 1998, *Diligence d'Alsace* No. 58/59, 194 pp. + fold-out with 2 maps, 7½x9½", softbound, no price given, from Amis de l'Histoire des PTT d'Alsace, B.P. 153, F 67004 Strasbourg CEDEX, FRANCE.

This magazine normally appears twice per year, but the exceptional double issue will be the only one for 1998, celebrating the bicentennial of Chappe's optical telegraph.

Apart from advice to reader, introduction, and conclusion, the book combines the articles of ten authors — some of whom made more than one contribution — under the headings Evolution of Location of the Line, Ramifications, People, Technologies. Though the book has a couple of illustrations of telegrams, as they looked before being sent and after having been received, the spectacular part of this type of communication — not too easily collected — were the towers and the contrivances they held for transmitting messages from station to station, and only in good weather and daylight, of course. Still, even this early telegraph, and by no means the only

optical one, belongs to postal history. (The fact that Western Union was not government-owned and - operated was exceptional.)

What is almost unknown is that two such neighboring stations were located one on the French and the other on the German side of the opposing lines around besieged Paris. Dr. Stieber, German head of police and espionage in the 1870 war, discovered the towers on a walk through the woods. It is said that they were used — after many years of disuse — during the siege of Paris, but I have found no verification of the rumor thus far.

The illustrative material is highly interesting and easily understood, of course. To read the full text, however, requires a good knowledge of French. Externalities — paper, type, printing, illustrations, etc. — are first-rate. The book contains many excellent details as well as a fine bibliography that will be useful for anyone studying the history of optical telegraphy in general.

--E. M. Cohn

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## NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

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- Yvan Cuny, *Etude Monographique du 25 centimes Semeuse camée brun jaune*; Supplément to N° 119 (July 1998) of *Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile*; 47 pp., A4 format, soft cover, black and white illustrations; 100Fr postpaid to C.L.E.P.M., from the Society's president, Pierre Magnard, 141 Rue Duguesclin, F-69000 Lyon, France. (Everything you ever need to know—and want to know—about the 25c yellowish brown cameo Sower stamp, in great but easily followed detail.)
- Vincent Pothion, *Nomenclature des bureaux de poste français 1852-1876—Petits et gros chiffres cotés*; new 1998 edition of the standard handbook-catalogue; 124 pp.; 185Fr (+ postage outside France), from La Poste aux Lettres, 17 Rue du Faubourg-Montmartre, F-75009 Paris. (Lists, with value indices, all small and large numerals within lozenges that were used to cancel stamps during the time span.)
- *Catalogue Yvert et Tellier 1999*; vol. 1: France, 464 pp., soft-cover edition at 95Fr + postal charges, card cover at 120Fr plus; vol. 1bis: Europa, Monaco, UN and Andorra, 320 pp., soft cover, 55Fr plus; vol 2, Pt. I: Colonies and TOM, 504 pp., soft cover, 170Fr plus; all stamps illustrated in color; from the usual sources.
- Antoine Magonette, *Le Bureau de Correspondance Belge de Sainte-Adresse*; 40 pp., 21 x 29.7 cm, 100 illustrations in color; 150Fr + 20Fr postage, from the author at 7 Rue Bosquet, F-14600 Honfleur, France. (The story of Belgian refugee mail in France during the First World War, profusely illustrated with postal and other documents reproduced in color.)
- *Le Patrimoine du Timbre Français*; 800 pp., 18 x 24 cm, card cover, all illustrations in color; 350Fr (+ postage) from Flohic Editions, Boite Postale 33, F-94220 Charenton Cedex, France. [Probably accept major credit cards.] (The story behind each of the ca.3500 French stamps, all of which are shown in color; their origin, design, preparation, usage; prepared under the supervision of several experts, among them Brun, Sinais, Michèle Chauvet, etc.)

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## F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

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### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I am pleased to announce that Louis K. Robbins has accepted appointment as Director to fill the vacancy created by the death of Ira Zweifach. Under the By-laws, this appointment will run until the next Annual Meeting.

At its November meeting, the Board discussed, without making any decisions, the possibility of revising the By-laws. The present version has not been changed for over twenty-five years, except for very occasional increases in the membership dues. A number of changes should be made to better reflect current operations. More significantly, the By-laws provide for a Board of Directors of twelve to thirteen members. For many years at least ten of these Directors lived in the New York City area. The Board met monthly, easily reached the required quorum of six members, and managed most of the Society's operations. In recent years, it has become difficult to recruit new Directors who are prepared to attend monthly meetings. We now have eight Directors available to attend meetings in New York City, but no prospective candidates. Only occasional Directors meetings are currently being called because of the difficulty of assuring a quorum. Generally the Society can function without Directors Meetings. The authority of the president and officers is sufficient to continue normal operations. Perhaps this should be the future course for the Society. If so, this will be a major change from the past, when almost all decisions were made by the Board. The abandonment of regular Directors meetings would require no actual change in the By-laws. More directors and officers could then be chosen who did not live in the New York City area. Such directors might facilitate the Society's participation in shows outside the New York City area. Other possibilities include reducing the number required for a quorum at Directors Meetings, and/or eliminating the current provision "Mail votes of Directors shall not be effective for any purpose." If any members have any reaction to this, I would be happy to hear from them.

--Dick Stevens

### ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting for the presentation of reports and election of officers and directors will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4, 1999, at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York, N.Y.

### AN IRA ZWEIFACH MEMORIAL EVENT

The Board of Directors has decided that an appropriate way to remember Ira Zweifach would be to hold a Memorial Dinner and Exhibition. Accordingly, on Tuesday, April 6, 1999, we will meet at the Collectors Club, and at 6:00 p.m. move to a nearby restaurant for dinner. Ira's daughter and son-in-law will be our guests. After dinner, we will return to the Collectors Club for a *non-competitive* Memorial Exhibit.

All members are invited to join us for dinner. There will be no speeches or other ceremonies. The location has not yet been chosen, but will be one of several moderately-(by New York City standards) priced French restaurants within walking distance of the Collectors Club. Everyone will make their own choices from the menu, and we will be splitting the bill, including that of our guests.

Whether or not you can be there: whether or not you can join us for dinner: all members are invited to remember Ira by participating in the Memorial Exhibition. Ira was always interested in unusual things, and did not generally participate in competitive exhibitions. Choose from one to three frames of material

that you think will be interesting. There will be no judging, and no specific rules will be applied regarding content. If you will be present, there will be an opportunity to give a brief presentation. Exhibits can be mailed to the president, together with packaging and postage for their return.

Enclosed with this journal is a form to be mailed to the president if you plan to participate in either the dinner or the exhibition.

#### NEW MEMBERS

- 3177 HILL, MRS. ELIZABETH L., 5612 Shell Rd., Wilmington, NC 28403. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used. All Colonies And Territories.)
- 3178 STAM, ANTONIE, 262 Silverwood Court, Athens, GA 30605. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Specialized France: Postal History: Stampless Covers - Marques Postales - Military Posts - Railway Posts - Used Abroad. Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used - On Cover - 1870-1871 Issues - Alsace-Lorraine - Dues - Cancellations. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint - Air Mails - Coils. Special Issues: Telegraph - Dues - Newspaper - Stationery - Revenues - Air Meets, First Flights, Etc. Proofs And Color Trials. Colonial Provisionals. Philatelic Literature.)
- 3179 TEETOR, JEFF, 5413 Kendall Drive, Cross Lanes, WV 25313-1655. (Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used. Mayotte Colonial Issues And New Issues. Vichy Era: All Colonies.)
- 3180 BLUMBERG, CHIP, P.O. Box 176, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444. (Somali Coast: Paquebots. Obock; Fake Postmarks.)
- 3181 BOONE, CHARLES, 1612 Burning Trail, Wheaton, IL 60187. (General France: Mint.)
- 3182 COY-KENDALL, BOB, 2751 Brimhall Dr., Los Alamitos, CA 90720. (General France: Mint - Used. Modern France: Mint - Used. Special Issues: Telegraph - Dues - Newspaper - Revenues - Air Meets - First Flights - Etc. Other: Parcel Post - Military - Precancels - Liberation - Fictifs. French Community: Offices Abroad. Monaco. Dealer: Part Time - Auctions - Mail Sales. Exchange.)
- 3183 TSACHOR, YACOV, P.O. Box 16218, Tel-Aviv, Israel. (Classics 1849-1876 - 1870-1871 issues. Levant. Dealer: Full Time - Auctions - Mail Sale.)
- 3184 HARTWELL, RODNEY, KtB (Y), P.O. Box 1090, Boron, CA 93596-1090. (Classics: French Empire Only.)

#### REINSTATEMENTS

- 3139 DRUCE, EDRIC, 8 Mildenhall Place, Fraser ACT 2615, Australia.
- 3032 BURGESS, CLINT, 1956 Northland Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035.
- 2613 BAILEY, FRANK H.

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 406 VENGROVE, CHARLES F., 1013 Stone Stack Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18015.
- 1140 KAMHOLZ, KENNETH (Corrected Spelling).
- 1435 NORTON, JACK HARRIS, 8067 Meadow Road, #115, Dallas, TX 75231.
- 2072 MERWIN, GRIER (Zip Code changed to 02446).
- 2918 LARSON, PETER B., 900 S.E. Thompson St., Pullman, WA 99163-2254.
- 3115 GRAHAM, PAUL, 35 S. Elm Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119.
- 2348 SMITH, PETER A. S., 811 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.
- 3079 GROOM, MALCOM, 225 Warwick, N., West Hobart, 7000 Tasmania, Australia.
- 1759 STEINER, WILLIAM E., 812 Crescent Dr., Unit 1-1, Champaign, IL 61821.
- 3147 RILEY, ROBERT A., Budget and Fiscal Office, PSC61-Box 0028, APO AE 09642.
- 1230 TORRES, DAVID, 1836 College Hills Blvd., San Angelo, TX 76904-4910.
- 2912 ROTTMAN, MILTON, 100 Worth Ave., Apt. 403, Palm Beach, FL 33480.

#### RESIGNATIONS

- 2851 BURNS, DONALD L. 3162 EUBANKS, RUSSELL A.
- 3092 LAUNDRY, SCOTT 3144 BAREHAM, DOUGLAS

#### DECEASED

- 2300 ERICKSON, RAYMOND R. 626 ZWEIFACH, IRA

## **IRA ZWEIFACH MEMORIAL EVENT**

\_\_\_\_\_ I plan to attend the Memorial Dinner at 6:00 p.m.  
on Tuesday, April 6, 1999. There will be \_\_\_\_\_  
people in my party.

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to participate in the Memorial Exhibition to  
be held at the Collectors Club Tuesday evening,  
April 6, 1999, and show \_\_\_\_\_ frames of material.

Please return to: Richard M. Stevens  
P.O. Box 99  
Greendell, NJ 07839

E-mail: [rmstevens\\_greendell@yahoo.com](mailto:rmstevens_greendell@yahoo.com)