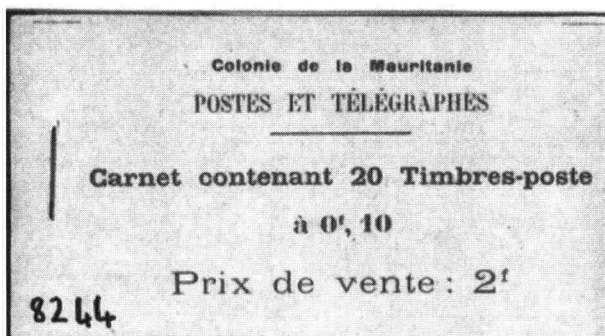
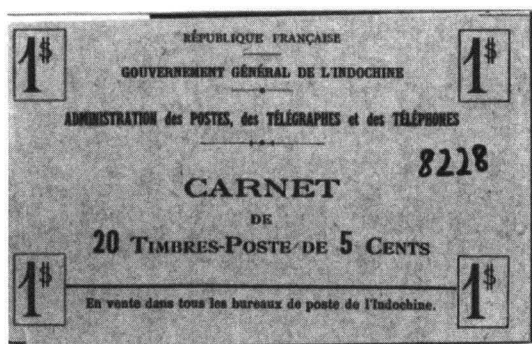




France & Colonies Philatelist

Vermeil Medals at CHICAGOPEX '98 & STAMPSHOW '99



Relatively little collector interest in booklets and booklet panes of the Colonies has been shown in the past. This is particularly true regarding pre-World War II booklets, most of which were printed in very limited quantities and have now become very difficult to find in any sort of condition. Here are two examples of covers of complete booklets from Indo-China and Mauritania, formerly in the Broustine collection.

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SENEGAL: PREPAYMENT OF POSTAGE IN CASH DURING JANUARY 1902

(A Not Entirely Resolved Philatelic Mystery)

by Bruno Mattei (FCPS N° 2952)

(e-mail address: simomatt@newel.net)

[Translated from the French by Christopher Simons, with modifications and corrections by S. J. Luft]

Introduction

Due to a shortage of postage stamps in January 1902, some larger post offices in Senegal used an unusual postal marking (Figure 1) and accepted prepayment in cash.

These facts were immediately reported in *Le Collectionneur des Timbres-poste* of February 1902, reprinted in *COL.FRA Bulletin* N° 27 (1984). A translation by Bill Mitchell (1998, p. 121) follows:

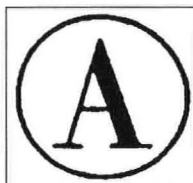


Figure 1.

SENEGAL.-One of our correspondents in Saint-Louis writes to us under date 20 January:

"In the last few days post offices in the colony have had no stamps of the 1 to 10 centimes denominations. Payment for internal mail has been indicated by a handstruck A. Relatively few letters received this cachet as it was only used for five or six days, the *paquebot Tibet* having brought in new stocks of stamps; now we are using the 10 centimes rose."

Our correspondent has kindly sent us two envelopes, one with a Dakar postmark of 17 January, the other postmarked Saint-Louis 18 January; the stamp is replaced by a bold cachet containing a large A in a circle in the same style as the marks which are used to indicate the *brigades* [teams] of the *ambulant* service.

This simple, now anonymous, and not entirely correct statement has stood the test of time for nearly a century. It specifically tells us (1) that there was a shortage of some denominations of stamps in Senegal in January 1902, that lasted very briefly, (2) that Dakar and St. Louis used a very unusual postal marking in lieu of the unavailable stamps, and (3) that stamp stocks were replenished by the packet *Tibet*. What still remains to be determined in greater detail is: why was there a need for prepayment in cash, and for how long a period; why were letters within circles handstamped, and where might they have originated.

Possible Causes of the Shortage

Apparently the first attempt at resolving these mysteries was made 35 years after the fact. Langlois and Bourselet (1937, p. 26) stated: "*In January 1902, with yellow fever raging in Dakar and preventing all communication with other regional post offices, because of quarantine, the incoming mail was stamped with the mark (...) next to the datestamp, an 'A' (affranchi) which means that the pay-*

ment was made in cash, owing to the lack of stamps." Thus we are led to believe that yellow fever and an accompanying quarantine caused the stamp shortage, and that the peculiar marking (A in a circle) stood for *affranchi* or prepayment made in cash. This explanation [note that the *Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste* correspondent does **not** mention a yellow fever epidemic] was used by a number of later writers who associated this prepayment in cash with the supposed quarantine at Dakar. They include de Pomyers (1959) who said "*The quarantine to which the town [of Dakar] has been subjected has rendered impossible all communications with the outside world.*" Stone (1981) stated (pp. 7-8, which we quote in its entirety):

"In late 1901 and early 1902 an epidemic of yellow fever raged in lower Senegal and devastated Dakar. A quarantine cut off communication with the outside and stocks of the 1c-10c stamps ran out in several postoffices. In this emergency, letters addressed to within the colony, or on New-Years-card envelopes, which took the low denominations, were authorized for cash prepayment in lieu of stamps. Such mail was marked with a large letter 'A' in serified style in a 19 mm circle; on the face also was applied the explanation: 'affranchie en numéraire' (in ms)/POSTES et TELEGRAMMES (in hs)/'Le Receveur' (in ms)+his initials.¹ A similar 'A' in circle is reported from Rufisque and St. Louis. The Rufisque 'A' is slightly different in style and the circle is 18 mm diam.; seen on covers of 13-14 Jan. A 'C' in circle of 18 mm is reported from Gorée 11 Jan. 1902. Perhaps a 'B' was used some place!

"DePomyers and Granoux describe a cover from Rufisque which is curiously revealing: It bears a 5c adhesive postmarked 18 Jan. 1902, but under the stamp can be seen the 'A' in circle. On the face of envelope is also a postmark dated 11 Jan. 1902, and a ms endorsement: 'Affranchie en numéraire/Le Receveur de __? __/ (signature)'.² De Pomyers suspected either hanky-panky or else that the emergency had ended. Granoux finds the explanation in the fact that by the time the mail was ready for dispatch (cover was addressed to France) the packet *Tibet* had arrived from France with a new supply of stamps, so the 'A' was no longer valid and a 5c stamp placed over it and cancelled several days later.

"A cover from Gorée postmarked 11 Jan. 1902 has the 'C' in circle but no other endorsement nor any adhesive."

1. This is very likely a lapse on Mr. Stone's part, 'Le Receveur' should be 'in hs' and **not** in ms (see Figures 6 and 12). The manuscript endorsements can vary in detail between post offices and even from day to day (also see Figures 4 and 5).

2. See Footnote 1. This may be the endorsement described in Stone's previous paragraph (and see Figure 12).

Stone's jottings are the primary English-language source on these covers. We obtain considerable information from them that we believe to be mostly correct but, as we have seen above and also further along, they may be misleading in some respects. Epidemic and quarantine mail has eagerly been sought after by collectors. As a result of the studies by de Pomyers, Granoux, Stone, and others, stamp and postal history dealers have tended to automatically describe this 1902 mail as being such. We now aspire to show that this was not necessarily the case.

Documentation

We have been able to gather data on a number of documents (Table I), which enables us to clearly analyze the hypotheses first formulated over 60

years ago by Langlois and Bourselet. For brevity, we simply refer to the handstamped capital A in a circle as "A". The first seven documents tabulated are postcards and numbers 8 through 26 are envelopes. Documents 1 to 17 are part of what we shall call the "Dumoulin production" (see below). In spite of its philatelic nature, this "Dumoulin production" is vital to this study, as it represents 65 percent of our inventory.

The Table I listing is by no means exhaustive. Other documents made known to us include:

- Letter from Dakar with "A" stamped twice, arriving in St. Louis on 11 January 1902 (Charbonnier, 1985);
- Letter from Gorée dated 11 January 1901 with a C in circle (Granoux, 1962);
- Letters from Rufisque of 13 and 14 January 1902 with "A" (ibid.);
- Letters from Dakar of 11 and 17 January 1902 with "A" (ibid.);
- "Dumoulin" letter from Dakar of 14 January 1902 with "A" (*TimbrOloisirs*, N° 19 [1990]);
- Letter from St. Louis of 18 January 1902 with "A" (*Le Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste*, February 1902);
- And most recently, a "non-Dumoulin" postcard from Rufisque to France of 23 January 1902, bearing a 10c "Tablet" stamp postmarked that day. The writer states he is in excellent health, with a good appetite and in good spirits [perhaps "a veiled reference to the epidemic"] (Mitchell, 1998, p. 122).

The discovery and reporting by our readers of additional documents could help considerably in refining this study.

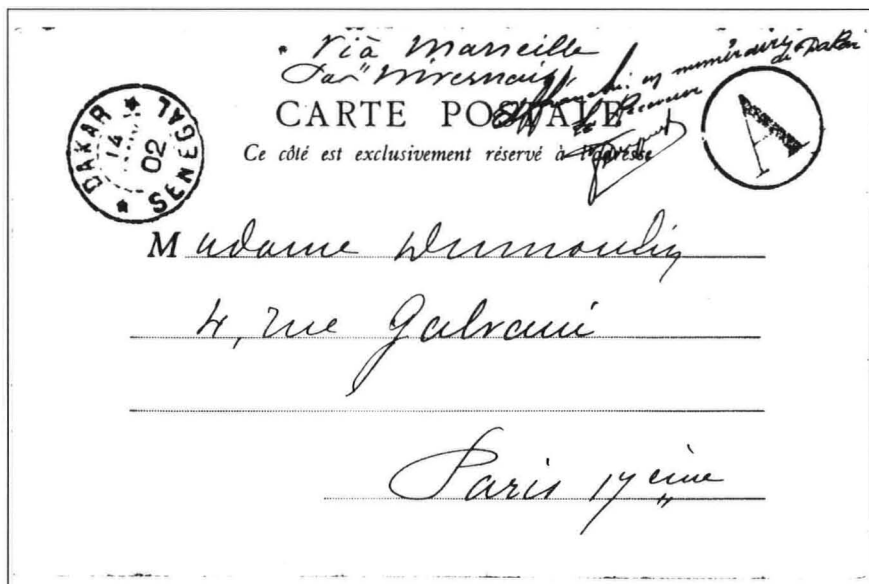


Figure 2. Dakar, 14 January 1902 postal card (Document 5 of Tables).

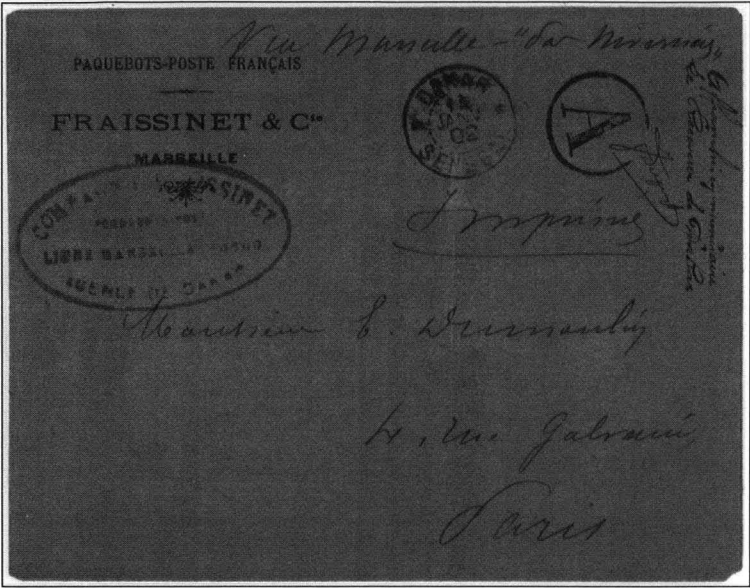


Figure 3. Fraissinet letterhead envelope from Dakar, 14 January 1902 (Document 11 of Tables).



Figure 4. Rufisque, 24 December 1901, to France.

TABLE I. Postal Documents from Senegal, dated January 1902, and bearing "A"-in-circle Markings

N°	Postage		Destination	Référence
	From	Date		
1	Dakar	14.01	Paris	DEMAREST - Auction Dec. 92 - lot n° 3484
2	"	"	Paris	DEMAREST - Auction Dec. 93 - lot n° 3537
3	"	"	Paris	DEMAREST - Auction Dec. 94 - lot n° 3980
4	"	"	Paris	LAHITTE Phil. - 13° Auction - lot n° 4620
5	"	"	Paris	Collection MATTEI
6	"	"	Paris	Collection MATTEI
7	"	"	Paris	Collection MONTPELLIER
8	"	"	On board "Tibet" in harbour in Dakar	DEMAREST - Auction Dec. 94 - lot n° 3980
9	"	"	On board "Tibet" in harbour in Dakar	LUGDUNUM Phil. - 5° Auction - lot n° 575
10	"	"	Paris	Collection HUET
11	"	"	Paris	Collection MATTEI
12	"	"	Paris	SINAIS - 28° Auction - lot n° 4713
13	"	"	Paris	DEMAREST - Auction Dec. 93 - lot n° 3537
14	"	"	Paris	Collection KIMMEL
15	"	"	Conakry	Collection GRABOWSKI
16	"	"	Grand-Bassam	DEMAREST - Auction Dec. 92 - lot n° 3484
17	"	"	Cotonou	DEMAREST - Auction Dec. 94 - lot n° 3980
18	"	"	St Louis	Collection GRABOWSKI
19	"	15.01	Dakar	Collection MITCHELL
20	?	?	St Louis	Collection GRABOWSKI
21	St Louis	16.01	Sakal	Collection MATTEI
22	"	16.01	Dakar	Collection GRABOWSKI
23	Rufisque	11.01	Orthez	Collection GRABOWSKI
24	"	"	Bordeaux	Collection MATTEI
25	"	16.01	Dakar	Collection MONTPELLIER
26	"	17.01	St Louis	Collection MONTPELLIER

(Continued In January 2000)

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from #257, July 1999, p. 61)

- > **779.)** The existence of a Korean Communist forgery of the 0,20 Sower of Piel of France (Scott 941, Yvert 1233), described in detail by Ken Lawrence back in our N° 232 of April 1993 had, according to a personal communication from Jean-Luc Trassaert, been noted in the *Circulaire Régionale PTT N° 139*, of 4 October 1963.

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

by Patrick Lavenas

(concluded from *FCP* #247, January 1997 and #249, July 1997)

*MIC	Micro-Ordinateur Connecté
*MICLI	Micro-ordinateur Connecté avec Livret
*MIVA	Module d'Impression de Vignette d'Affranchissement
*MOS	Micro-Ordinateur Standard
*MTS	Machine de Tri Simplifié
*NAPAI	N'hAbite Pas à l'Adresse Indiquée
*NDF	Nécessité De Fermer
*OL	Origine Locale
*OPR	Objet recommandé à Prix Réduit
*PAL	PostAL
*PC	Préposé Chef
*PE	PostExpress recommandé
*PeT	Poste et Télégraphes
*PF	Plate-Forme
*PIA	Poste d'Indexation Automatique
*PL	Principal
*PN	PNeumatique
*PRAL	PRincipAL
*PRINCAL	PRINCipAL
*PSA	Parti Sans laisser d'Adresse
*PSLA	Parti Sans Laisser d'Adresse
*PU	Paquet Urgent
*PV	Poids Vérifié
*RA	Recommandé Administratif
*Régit	REGLementT
*RS	Registre Supplémentaire
*SAL	Surface Air Lifted
*SE	Service Economique
*SEC	SECTion
*SIG	Système d'Impression de Guichet
*SMDP	Société Mondiale De Publicité
*SMH	Société des Machines Havas
*SNC	Société en Nom Collectif
*SP	Secteur Postal
*SP	Secteur Prioritaire
*SR	Semi-Routage
*SYGETEX	SYstème de GEstion et Traitement des EXpéditions
*TC	Trieur Chef
*TDEA	Transport de Dépêches par Entreprise Automobile
*TG	Tri Généralisé (TG1, TG2, TG3)
*TIP	Titre Interbancaire de Paiement
*TMG	Terminal Multifonction de Guichet
*TOP	Trieuse d'Objets Plats
*TPS	Trieuse de Paquets Standards
*TR	Tarif Réduit (TR3...)
*TR	Taxe Réduite (objet recommandé à...)
*TS	Tarif Spécial (TS1, TS2, TS3...)
*TUP	Titre Universel de Paiement
*UPU	Union Postale Universelle
*VR	Valeur à Recouvrer
*XP	eXPrés

**USE OF THE BOXED "TRANSPORTÉE
EXCEPTIONNELLEMENT PAR AVION"
ON MAIL FROM MONACO**
by Jerold M. Massler (FCPS N° 1829)

One of the gifts of philately is that there is always something new to be learned. Taking pride in my knowledge of tariffs and rates, I was a bit puzzled by the cover shown here as Figure 1. Sent from Monaco to Rachgia, Cochin China on 9 January 1933, it has a Saigon transit marking of 21 January on the reverse and one for Rachgia of the following day. What puzzled me was the boxed cachet measuring approximately 39 x 14 mm on the front, which reads:

LETTRE TRANSPORTÉE
EXCEPTIONNELLEMENT PAR AVION
A TITRE DE PROPAGANDE

plus the domestic **surface** rate of 50 centimes, then current for mail to the Colonies from Monaco as well as from France.

Enlisting some able assistance on the European side of the Atlantic, I was directed to a three-part serial written by R. Poskin of Marseille which appeared in *les Feuilles Marcophiles - Information*, numbers 31-33 (1981-1982). Between 1929 and 1936 there were two cachet formats in use: "TRANSPORTÉ(E) (or LETTRE TRANSPORTÉE) EXCEPTIONNELLEMENT PAR AVION" (in thirteen types) and one with the added words "A TITRE DE PROPAGANDE" (six types). This was done under the express instruction of the postal administration when there were not enough air-franked letters to make up a shipment. The mail sacks simply were filled to the required capacity (or less) with ordinary letters, after they had received this supplemental, usually boxed marking. This was done to show that airmail supposedly arrived sooner than surface mail, and to recommend to the public the use of airmail service. Mail to and from the following destinations from France received these slogans: Algeria, Tunisia, Indochina, Brazzaville (French Congo), Ajaccio (Corsica), Cotonou (Dahomey), Lebanon, Syria, Tchad, Niger, and Madagascar, according to Poskin.

The Figure 1 cover was the first usage I had ever seen of a letter emanating from Monaco. According to Monsieur Poskin's classification, this particular cachet is Type N° 8c, which was applied at Marseille Gare to correspondence between France and Indochina from the end of 1932 until the end of 1934. From a colleague I later saw a French letter to Annam, Indochina, dated 29 January 1934, with a Type N° 8a cachet, the difference between 8a and 8c being in the alignment of the first "T" in TRANSPORTÉE relative to the underlying third "E" and first "L" of EXCEPTIONNELLEMENT.

When M. Poskin wrote his article, he failed to state (or was unaware) that this service also existed within France. Figure 2 is a recent acquisition of a letter originating in Monaco on 5 September 1929, that went by air from either Nice or Marseille to Clermont-Ferrand. With 60c in postage, it was overpaid by 10c for a surface letter of up to 20 gm. The existing domestic airmail supplement (3 May 1929) was 35c up to 20 gm. It is apparent that the sender, Agence Roux, was using surface mail and that it fortuitously went by air. The strike TRANSPORTÉ EXCEPTIONNELLEMENT / PAR AVION conforms to Type N° 1, as reported by Poskin.

Those wishing to identify the markings that appear on covers within their collections should try to obtain copies of the article from a well-stocked philat-

elic library. Monsieur Poskin stated that his examination of the usage is far from complete, and so our readers are asked to send in copies of items they have in their possession.

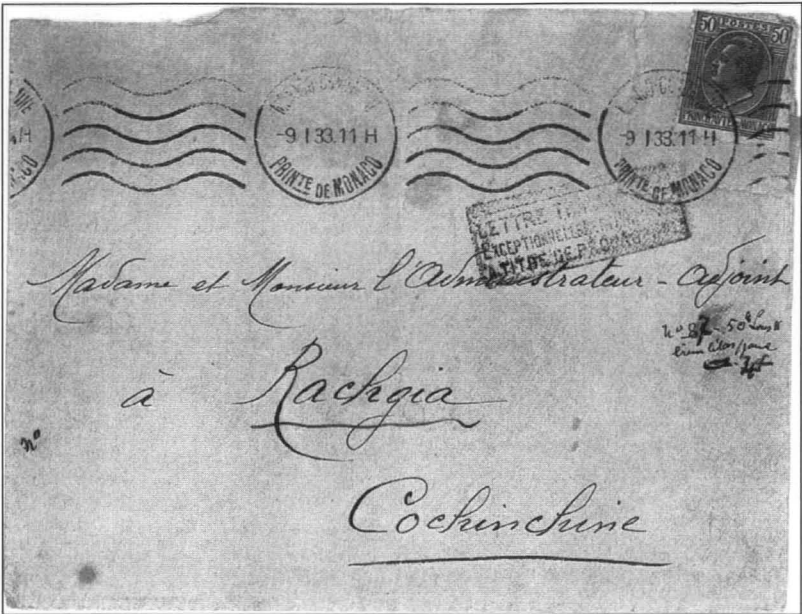


Figure 1.

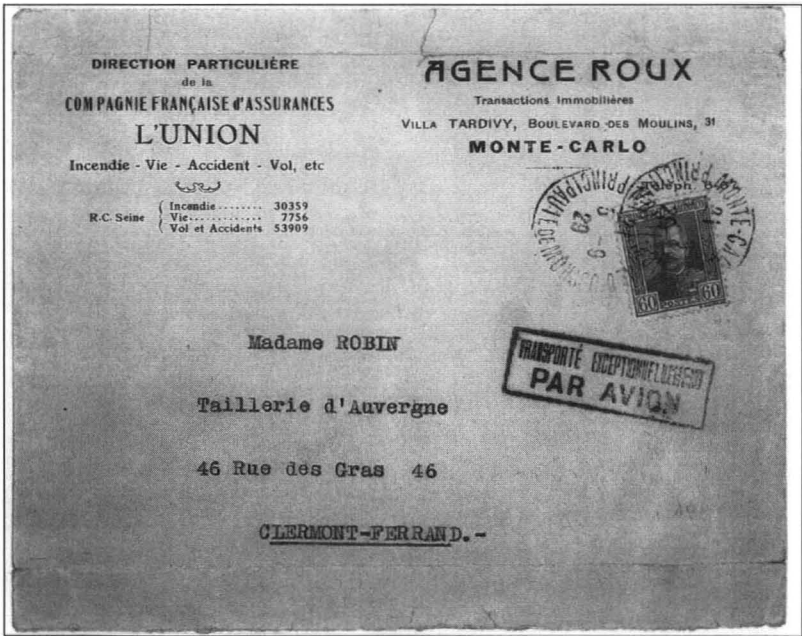


Figure 2.

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?—AGAIN¹

by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180)

Or rather, is there a patient in the hospital? Here is another much-travelled cover, this time sent under military franchise by a member of the Expeditionary Corps that remained in China after the Boxer Rebellion had been quelled. It is addressed to Alfred Vevier, a member of the 1st Zouaves Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion, 3rd Company (or perhaps the 19th Company?), in the hospital at Djibouti (Somali Coast). The cover bears the Tonkin Expeditionary Corps mar-



Figure 1a. Front of the cover.

itime postmark (Salles N° 1954)² of Line N Ship 4, the *Tonkin*, which left Yokohama 9 November 1900 and picked up this mail at its 12 November stop at Shanghai. The only other postmark on the front of the cover is the 8 December 1900 arrival postmark of Djibouti on the "Horn of Africa." Alfred was not at the Djibouti hospital, where the cover was annotated to try the hospital at Port Said (Egypt). A backstamp shows that the letter left Djibouti 12 December 1900 to go to Port Said by way of Toulon and Marseille, whose postmarks unfortunately overlap. However, we can see 27 DEC in the bottom Marseille-Rhone postmark and a DEC in the middle Toulon-S-Mer postmark, as well as the 28 DEC 1900 in the Marseille-Départ postmark. We can even deduce from the size and the "TO" that there is a Toulon-S-Mer arrival postmark of 26 December on the far right of the back. The cover then arrived at Port Said 4 January 1901 and left again on the 7th, with "Hôpital de Port Said" crossed out. Someone by then had concluded that Alfred had been *rapatrié* (reinstated in his unit), written in both blue and red on the front, and *réincorporé* (reunited) within the 19th Company, in a different handwriting on the back, so once again to Toulon for a postmark dated 12 January 1901. Along the way, the log-

ical notation *inconnu* (unknown) gets added in pencil on the back. Was his unit in Algeria, inasmuch as Saida is noted on the front and there is a nice Saida, Oran postmark of 16 January 1901 on the back, with an additional postmark of Alger, many miles away, of 21 January 1901? What happened after Alger is anyone's guess. Ten postmarks on the back and two on the front is hardly a record, so if you have a cover with many postmarks, please send our editor a photocopy with your comments on the travels that it took.

Endnotes

1. See FCP N° 226, October 1991.
2. Raymond Salles, "La Poste Maritime Française," v. V: "Les Paquebots de l'Extrême Orient"; republished by James Bendon Ltd., 1993.

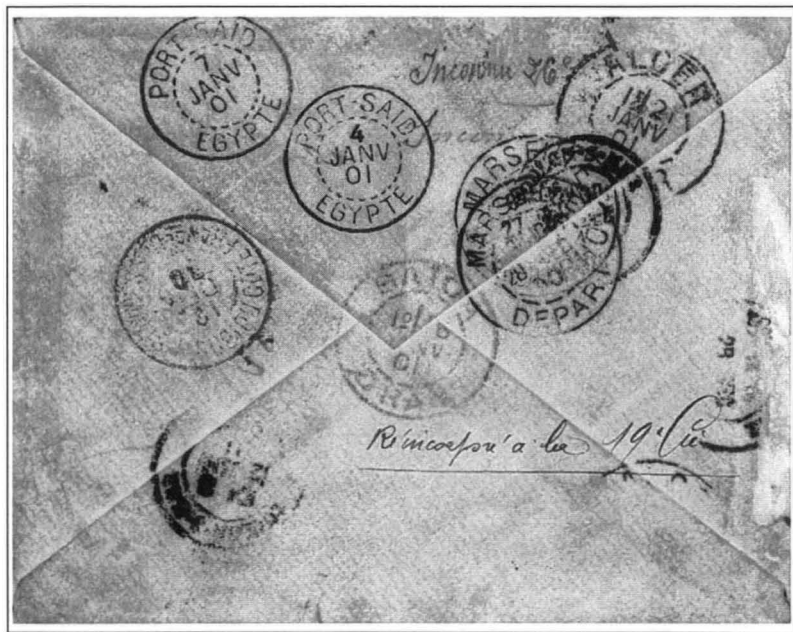


Figure 1b. Back of the cover.

MEMBERS' APPEALS

OFFER: My price list of MNH France, French Polynesia, and TAAF. Will sell or trade for Paris hand cancellations. Mike Troubetzkoy, 3437 Taraval St., San Francisco, CA 94116. (Mb. #1843).

THE AMBULANT ROUTIER SERVICE

A little-known and short-lived **intra-departmental** mail service, utilizing at first motor coaches and later on trailer trucks ("semis"), was first essayed in Fall 1956. Temporarily discontinued that November by the fuel shortage that followed the aborted attack on Egypt and the Suez Canal, it was resumed May 1957.

J. Gautier has written a useful overview of the service in *Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile*, N° 117 (1998), and it is summarized here. A total of 13 such runs were placed in service between 1957 and 1961. Because the vehicles were used to sort the mail between towns (within a department), or routes served neither by trunk line trains nor by air, as well as for picking up and delivering mail sacks, they were each staffed by several postal persons; among them, a shift boss, a driver, several mail sorters, and a mechanic.

Handstamps (Figure 1) and straightline markings (Figure 2), as shown by Gautier, are illustrated here at full size. They are identical in form to the Type III ones of night ambulants. At the bottom of the date stamps, there is either a star or the *brigade's* letter symbol, or simply just a space. Some runs had several of these variations, others apparently had only a single handstamp.

The last run of an *ambulant-routier* took place on 25 April 1992. Gautier doesn't state why the service was suppressed. However, it appears that it was made obsolete by the ever-increasing presence in more and more post offices of automatic sorting machines, and by a denser network of night airmail routes. It should be stated here that the trunk-line railway ambulant service also "died" soon afterwards, its final run being Paris to Nantes in December 1995. The rural automobile post does, however, continue to function and to serve the smallest towns and villages.

--S. J. Luft



Figure 1.

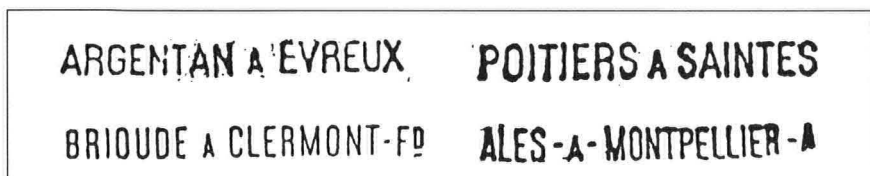


Figure 2.

A CLASSIFICATION OF THE VEHICULAR POST DATE STAMPS OF NEW CALEDONIA

A vehicular post (*annexe-mobile*) has existed in France ever since 1926, but this practice did not reach New Caledonia until 1965, when a circuit on Lifou Island, operating out of the Wé post office, was inaugurated. In *Bulletin COL. FRA* N° 81 (1998), Georges Kling proposed a classification of the *annexes-mobiles* date stamps of New Caledonia, and I'll attempt to summarize it here. Kling's classification is based upon the different orthographies, for NOUVELLE CALEDONIE and for ANNEXE MOBILE, that appear on the date stamps. (Sorry, but I have no illustrations at hand).

Type J: NOUVELLE-CALEDONIE

Ja: NOUVELLE CALEDONIE

J1: NELLE CALEDONIE

J2: NLLE CALEDONIE

J3: N. CALEDONIE

Subtype AM1: ANNEXE-MOBILE

AM1a: ANNEXE MOBILE

AM2: AN. MOBILE

AM3: AN. MOB. (as per KOUMAC-AN. MOB)

AM3a: AN. MOB (as per BOURAIL AN. MOB. [no hyphen between
post office and
annex])

The 30 different known date stamp varieties can thus be distinguished and classified:

Ja-AM3: Bourail, Hienghène, Koumac, Ouégoa, Pondimié, Pouébo, Poum, Yaté [9 examples, including AM3a];

J1-AM1: Kuto, Paita, Poya, Thou, Touho, Voh [6 examples];

J1-AM2: Canala (2nd circuit), Houailou, Kouaoua, La Foa, Pouébo [5 examples];

J1-AM3: Boulouparis, Kaale Gomen, Ponévihouen (2nd circuit) [3 examples];

J1-AM1a: Canala (1st circuit), Yaté [2 examples];

J3-AM1: Fayahoué, Tadine (1st circuit) [2 examples];

J-AM1a: Vao

J-AM3: Tadine (2nd circuit);

J2-AM1a: Ponévihouen (1st circuit).

Even if one is not about to classify one's holdings of New Caledonia vehicular-post markings, at least this short essay presents you with a complete listing of the known circuits' names and date stamps.

-- S. J. Luft

THE CARNET CORNER

by Bob Seeke (FCPS N° 1334)

This installment of the Corner examines a non-stamp booklet that looks just like a real stamp booklet.

Figure 1 shows a booklet of 10 *timbres-fictifs*, or fictitious stamps. Though it may be hard to tell from the picture, the stamps are arranged similarly to those on Yvert 1098: 2 horizontal strips of 5 separated by an empty space. They are engraved and are red. The cover of the booklet has text identical to Yvert 1101: "Timbres pour l'affranchissement d'une lettre de 20g pour la France....." etc.

The reason for printing these booklets is that they were intended for use as test subjects for the machines which dispense the real booklets of this type: the "Sagem" booklets, sold in vending machines and put in the machine in rolls of 500 booklets. When a purchase is made, the machine advances the roll one unit and then cuts it off.

The examples I've seen have *coin datés* of 7.10.1.95 and 7.10.6.95. The date is located on the left side of the top row. The "7" refers to the press that printed the booklet: *Taille-douce*, 6-color press number 7 (TD6-7). A control number appears on the left side adjacent to the bottom row of stamps.

I don't like to discuss prices in this column, but a few words may be in order. When these test booklets first appeared on the market, the price was around 450 francs each (trust me, I know). I believe that the price has since dropped to perhaps a fifth of that amount as more have come on the market.

Until next time, *bonne philatélie!*

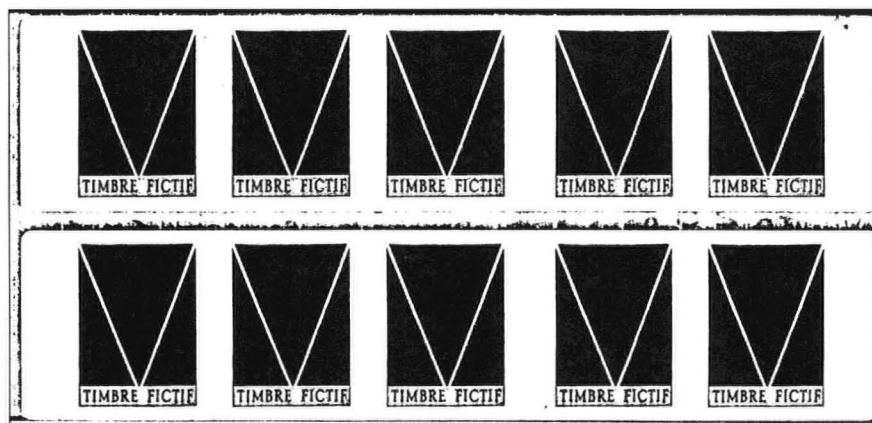


Figure 1.

PHILEXFRANCE 99 SHOW REPORT

If this was déjà vu, let's do it all over again! The U.S. had a great showing at the exhibition, taking two of the three Grand Prix, both by members of our Society: Steve Walske the Grand Prix National with his Franco-Prussian War Siege mail, and Jamie Gough the Grand Prix d'Honneur with his Evolution and use of adhesives for postage due. All (we trust!) members' medals are listed elsewhere under "Some Show Reports." Congratulations to all!

The 23 exhibits of Traditional French Community were a little disappointing, both in number and results—only three golds including Madame Gaillaguet's, and 11 vermeils. The 54 exhibits of postal history were definitely the stronger part of the show, with both candidates for Grand Prix National coming from this section out of a blizzard of 15 golds and 31 vermeils. Charles Bridoux's exhibit of 20c first issue of 1849, the other Grand Prix candidate, was the best showing of the issue I've seen since ARPHILA 1975.

Certainly a highlight of the show was the dinner of l'Académie de Philatélie, 6 July, at which our four newly elected Associate members were given their lapel pins—Bohn, Grabowski, Lievsay, and Walske. The affair was at the Museum of the Hunt, on the Ile de la Cité about three blocks from Notre Dame, and it was a great pleasure for us to see old friends and correspondents, and to meet the other members.

It was warm and muggy in Paris, and the organizers wouldn't turn on the air conditioning in the Exhibit hall because it would have been too expensive. I was out of my traditional red jacket by the first afternoon. Some nit-wit designer had a big pool as part of the floor plan, and while it was a nice place to sit at the edge of the traditional exhibits, the extra moisture in the air didn't help. The jury/commissioners' outing was to the artist community of Auvers/s/Oise where Van Gogh worked, and I have worn the green and purple iris tie which Jo bought for me the obligatory once. The Palmares were held at the Louvre—in the basement; and for the FF1000 tab nobody got into the museum to see a single thing. Some amusement among the international audience that the evening's entertainment was all Broadway show music.

In advance I couldn't imagine how the organizers could beat the ambiance and trappings of the last show in Paris during the bicentennial in 1989. We were told that the PTT put up a whopping \$14 million for this one. I'm not sure they got their money's worth. However, attendance was good and the last figure I saw before the show closed was over 200,000. Dealers with whom I spoke said they did good business, and the dinner put on by the dealers' association at the Fair (Carnival) Museum was a delight. The USPS canceled their announced reception on short notice and with no explanation. There was nothing on the official program for exhibitors, an omission which I hope will be corrected by the organizers for Washington 2006. There was a fashion show and a visit to the Rodin Museum for companions; Jo and some of the other ladies got away for a day at Versailles. I had one free day from jury duties, and Jo led me by the nose to the Baccarat store/museum and to Fauchon (gourmet goodies). On the trip home we stopped for four days in Iceland where it was cool, wet, and windy. We didn't opt for your editor's honeymoon regimen of camping out.

-- J. E. Lievsay

AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES--47

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

Way back (in Amazing #23) I reported on some of the wonderful 1870 tales, told by Frenchmen at CAPEX '96. In a note in *Le Monde* for December '96, anon. (presumably the editor) thought that I "squared accounts — always with the greatest precision —" with French philatelic writers, concerning the history of manned balloons and of the war of 1870-1871 in general. Actually, I did not wish to even any accounts at all, merely to point out serious mistakes, which even an outsider could see.

I regret that this will be a sequel to #23, a report about some major errors and omissions in bulletins 1 and 2 for **Philexfrance** 99. So, in order of appearance.

De Cérès ... à Cérès

In *Mondial du timbre* 1, a portion of the filler, De Cérès ... à Cérès, by Annette Apaire, pp. 51-55, concerns 'our' war and its aftermath. Though the battle of Sedan ended on the evening of 1 September and the French Emperor met with the King of Prussia early on the 2nd, here we read that the French army at Sedan capitulated on the 3rd.

On page 53, we learn that each of the airmail postcards of Paris weighed 3 grams, though I doubt that many of them reached that maximum allowable weight. And while the postage for cards sent within France and to Algeria was indeed 10 centimes, cards sent abroad — and there were quite a few — had to be prepaid with the usual amount for a single-weight letter to a particular country.

Page 54 shows a lovely *ballon monté* with a red Paris SC cds of 25 November, hence flown on the *Jacquard*, and another red cds ANGL./BOULOGNE 1 of 25 December, hence salvaged from the mail bag found on Bryher Island. It had been packed so tightly in the middle of the package that the stamp is still in the same condition in which it had left Paris. The balloon itself, however, sank in sight of the coast of Cornwall on the afternoon or in the evening of 29 November. It went down near the beach of Cadgwith, not far from Falmouth, and nowhere near the Scillies. Part of the mail was found in Cornwall early in December, whereas one bag drifted all the way to Bryher and was found there only on 20 December. All of that was published 30 years ago in English and later on also in French...

La Nuit

The first filler of bulletin 2 starts on page 46, Bernard Jimenez' *La Nuit*. In ten years of work, the author built up his thematic collection, of which he likes the postal history portion by far the best. His Russian letter that traveled during the night of 24/25 December 1870 (Julian calendar) has a 'Night' cachet (in Russian, of course), of which he says only three are known. That letter is illustrated; other pictures are mostly of a couple of covers from the 1930s and some equally modern mint stamps. Not one word is said about the nocturnal postal history of 'our' war! What might have been mentioned about it?

Best known, of course, is the **world's first night airmail**, which started from Paris on 18 November via the balloon *Le Général Uhrich*, followed by a whole slew of others that started their journey out of Paris by night. An *Uhrich* should not be too hard to find even today. It is a certain one only if postmarked on the 20th, whether at Luzarches or elsewhere. The *Uhrich* was also the first balloon to carry mail with the private cachet of the *Aéronautes*, which was the **world's second airmail cachet**. It was first struck in red and later in blue on *Uhrich* mail that was entrusted directly to the *Aéronautes*; only the blue color was used thereafter.

And yes, there was one balloon that started on 24 December, but at 3 a.m. Its mail is about as scarce as that in Russia of more or less 24 hours (and some days) later. It's the *Rouget de l'Isle*.

The only balloons that were lost at sea were night balloons, the *Jacquard* and the *Richard Wallace*; mail from both is still extant.

The only balloons captured in Germany proper were night balloons, the *Ville de Paris* and the *Général Chanzy*.

The most adventurous manned balloon flight of the siege was made by the night balloon *La Ville d'Orléans*,...but you get the point.

Next in importance of night mail from 1870-1871 were the zinc balls, all of which were thrown into the Seine at night. So, if you have a zinc ball letter, you have an example of the **world's first subaquatic or subfluvial mail**, which was a night-time operation.

As for smuggled mail, at least some of it was taken through the lines at night, e.g., Grimbert's first return from Amiens and Morel's return from Tours to Paris. Other examples may already be known or come to light.

Before the diplomatic pouch of the United States was exchanged at the bridge of Sèvres, it was taken through the lines by authorized people. U.S. General Burnside and (simulated) Colonel Forbes took the first U.S. pouch into Paris. Here is what Count Maurice d'Hérisson d'Irisson has to say about that trip:

"October 2 was a Sunday. Around 1:30 a.m. I was sleeping soundly when loud knocking at my door roused me suddenly...

"I went immediately to see General Trochu.

"I am sorry to disturb you, my dear boy,' he said, 'but the outposts have announced the visit of an American general, who does not speak French. Since I do not speak English, I want you as an interpreter. Sit down there...'

"Around 5 a.m. the general awakened me: 'You can go home,' he said, 'The general will not arrive until the morning. Come back at 8 a.m.'

"At 9 a.m. the American general, preceded by a messenger, entered the office of the governor, who received him while standing, in full military uniform, in the company of his whole staff..."

The dispatch bag they brought contained private mail as well. One of those letters was found by the late Robert Boussac at a stand along the Seine, but it took a few years before its postal history become fully known. It is shown here (Figure 1).

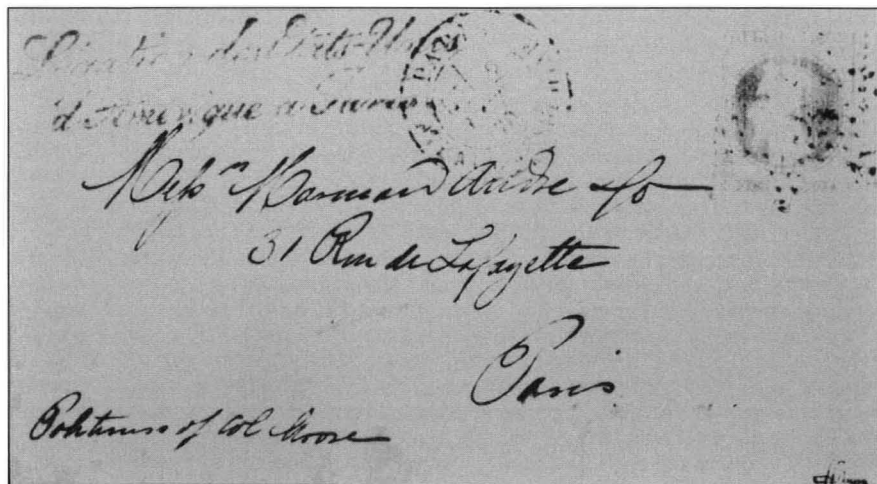


Figure 1.

Well, so much for nocturnal postal history of the Franco-German War of 1870/1971. Can any reader add more?

État de siège: la Poste fait face

The following filler was written by Dr. Bertrand Sinais and contains an excellent picture of his unique Paris *papillon* on 55; dated 21 September, sent to Vichy, with a note on it '22 7^{bre}, and a transit cds from Magny-en-Vexin 1E/25 Sept. 70, thought to have been carried by a child's balloon like many of the Roseleur messages.

While it is true that Nadar left the *Aérostiers* organisation he had founded, he then also founded the second *Aérostiers*, but simply for aerial observations. His successors for mail balloon construction became the *Aéronautes*, of course. As for the lost balloon pilots, Prince was indeed a sailor; but Lacaze, a free-shooter and/or military medic(?), who had joined Nadar's group early in September 1870, had nothing to do with the navy.

Though some mail of the *Ville d'Orléans* did lose its stamps, that in itself is no proof that a specific letter was in the sea: Some mail in the sea did not lose stamps, while letters not in the sea were soaked later on to make them seem more valuable.

The Paris SC cds was used not for letters put into a certain mail box but for those delivered to a certain room at the main Paris post office. As the *Gazette des Absents* 2 of 14 January 1871 explains: "Persons who have let this hour pass without putting their letter in a (mail) box can go to hand them in on Jean-Jacques-Rousseau Street at an office situated at the end of the court, opposite the little door to the right and where letters are received during the evening [soirée] for the night balloon." This has been falsely interpreted elsewhere as meaning that that office was open all night; but that is not the meaning of 'soirée' (see Amazing 1).

While more than 10,000 kg 'mail' may have been moved by manned balloon out of Paris, less than half that consisted of letters. But since the weight of a letter was, on average, perhaps half of the allowable maximum, the total of 2.5 million letters may still hold. Incidentally, it has been said that of the 2.5 million Paris balloon letters, some 3 million are still existence...

An old fable, difficult to kill, is the statement that Steenackers, when leaving Paris for Tours, had pigeons with him. Not even he claimed that, and he was not bashful. Ségalas may have been first with the idea for using pigeons, but the ones he bought were plain street pigeons, a fact soon recognized by everyone concerned except for Ségalas, so that none of his pigeons was ever used for any transport. All pigeons entrusted with messages for Paris were taken out by balloon. Pigeons from northern France, introduced to Paris to take messages out, were used only sparingly, because the balloon system functioned so well. Their role had long been ignored. I have reported on them in detail.¹

The name of van Roosebeke is properly spelled here. No other spelling is correct. I have found that only the spellings used for nomination to the Légion d'Honneur can be trusted. All spellings of proper names in the French literature had best be double checked if one wants to be sure. Even the address book, Almanach Didot-Bottin for Paris 1870, cannot be trusted: Would you believe it lists "WATSCHBRUN, envoyé etc." for Washburne? Believe it!

As for *boules de Moulins*, they were certainly not intended to have the same specific gravity as Seine water but were, according to Delort's 21 November 1870 patent, to be denser, sink to the bottom, constantly rotate and hence move with the river because of built-in fins. Thus, they would not be seen bobbing

downstream. Also, the net to catch them *at the bottom of the river* would not reach up to the surface and would therefore (a) not be visible, (b) not interfere with river boats, and (c) not be destroyed by boats. In that important respect, i.e., being denser than water, these zinc balls differed from all other means proposed for 1870 river mail. The idea is clear from the patent.

Among those who organized and participated in mail smuggling for Paris, Pellevilain, 2bis Quai du Havre, Rouen, has a prominent place. His name, spelled in a variety of ways, is correctly spelled here, according to the Rouen address book of 1870 (but is that as reliable as the Paris Bottin?!).

No letter carried in the US diplomatic pouch is known with a London SW earliest postmark. However, British Captain Johnson, Queen's Messenger who also carried a British diplomatic pouch and may have carried some mail personally as well, is known to have mailed a letter from the Marcuard-Schall correspondence, first postmarked at London SW on 3 October 1870.

Conclusion

What is the point of publishing these corrections? It's the same as that of publishing many other tales in this series, viz., to point out what is real history and to distinguish that from the various fables that have been invented for whatever reason or lack of reason.

It may make no difference to postal history when the first three men who formed the Government Delegation at Tours left Paris or how the name of a smuggler or a pigeon keeper is spelled, when the telegraph wires in the Seine were cut, or whether the red SC mark was put on letters out of a special box or handed to a man in an office. But then again, it *may* make a difference. It is best to know general and postal history as precisely as possible in order to draw the correct inferences and conclusions. To judge whether a document is authentic or not, every shred of evidence could be helpful. That is the reason for correcting errors. It may be highly significant for expertizing; it has nothing to do with any personal feelings. Will the editor of *Le Monde* read these lines?

Furthermore, people who pay money for preparing philatelic show literature should care about what is in it. International show literature often contains fillers, defined here as everything not directly related to the show itself, almost invariably scissors-and-paste jobs, hastily done, hardly worth reading or keeping, perhaps supplied free to the organizers. Offering decent pay to writers of original material would help.

Whether or not writers were paid, fillers in the NORWEX 97 printed matter were outstanding for originality and presentation. Another way of getting high-grade material was used by JUVALUX 98, where abstracts from its postal history symposium were printed as filler. That was also extracted and bound separately. It is certainly a fine way of making good use of expensive space and thus preparing a piece of worthwhile literature. If and when fillers are used — which is not absolutely necessary — they should at least be useful philatelic references. Why not have good, reliable literature, free or at relatively low cost, as a byproduct of international shows? If few collectors visit shows and even fewer remember them several years later, a softbound or hardbound book of worthwhile information is the best way of keeping its memory alive. Does anyone care?

¹Ernst M. Cohn, *The Other Homing Pigeons of 1870 — A highly fragmentary story*, FCPS brochure #2, edited by C. S. Holder, © 1976 The France & Colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain, 16 pp.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- Robert Françon, a signer of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and a founder and the president of the Académie Européenne d'Etudes Philatéliques et Postales, died 24 April 1999 at the age of 67. A noted specialist in French early 20th Century regular issues and postal stationery, he wrote, in collaboration with Dr. Jean Storch, J.-F. Brun and others, numerous definitive monographs and catalogs in his specialty fields.
- Twenty (potentially more?) accidentally imperforate to partially perforated sheets of the St.-Exupéry / "Le Petit Prince" se-tenant strips of five stamps at 3,00F, issued in December 1998 as pre-PHILEXFRANCE 99 publicity items, have slipped by the quality-control system. All 20 were purchased by one client at his local post office! These must be considered as true errors, for intentionally imperforate stamps (for distribution to dignitaries and other favored persons) were discontinued in 1996.
- Updating data on the conflict in Yugoslavia: Bureau Postal Militaire (BPM) 662 was created to serve the French brigade at Kumanovo, in northern Macedonia, deployed to help bring peace to Kosovo. French planes bombarding Yugoslavia were based in Italy and on the carrier "Foch."
- For lack of funds to renovate the old chateau housing the Musée de la Poste et des Voyages, at Amboise, the museum has been closed by order of the town's mayor.
- Members Jeff Bohn, Ed Grabowski, John Lievsay and Steve Walske were inducted into the Académie de Philatélie as Associate (overseas) Members.
- In the July-August 1999 *Timbroscopie*, Michel Melot, Raymond Beaussant and Jean-François Brun claim that the very first unissued French stamp is a 40c blue Cérés, of which a lower right margin block of 12 exists in M. Beaussant's possession. What is unclear to me are compelling reasons as to why this couldn't be "just" a color trial for the 40c orange stamp that was issued on 3 February 1850.
- Leonard Hartmann ("The Philatelic Bibliopole"), P.O. Box 36006, Louisville, KY 40233-6006 (Fax 502-459-8538; e-mail <pbbooks@ibm.net>; web site <http://pbbooks.com>) is now handling the complete run of in-print Vincent Pothion ("La Poste aux Lettres") handbooks; also, Thomas Boyle's "Air Mail Operations During World War II" (reviewed here in this number), and much other good literature.
- Only five members of our Society were named as journal editors on p. 21 of our N° 255 January 1999). Firstly, I apologize to Terry Barham (*The Indo-China Philatelist*); sorry, Terry! And I've since learned of two others, both from Australia [slow communications from there...]: Ian McMahon (*Postal Stationery Collector*) and Ed Druce (*The Asia Pacific Exhibitor*). Welcome to the "club!" Contacting Ian at <ian.mcmahon@anu.edu.au> or Ed at <INTER-ACT@geomentus.com> will get you a free sample copy and invitation to join.
- At PHILEXFRANCE 99, your editor escaped with the loss of only 20Fr when he attempted to send two electronic *prêt-à-poster* cards (at 10Fr per) via computer. Payment had to be made by credit card, which limited the extent of the clientele. Managed to get as far as "sent" and "pay up," but neither item ever reached the U.S. Has anyone else had that experience? At least I glommed onto a souvenir mouse pad from the patient young lady demonstrating the system.
- New Caledonia's first postage stamp was a locally made one showing the effigy of Napoleon III. For PHILEXFRANCE 99 and the 140th anniversary of this 1859 stamp, the territory issued a very unusual souvenir sheetlet of five stamps (four at 100Fr and one at 700Fr) depicting various renditions of that

first stamp, designed by Claude Andreotto and printed (in France) by Cartor. Each stamp in the sheetlet was printed by a different process: holography (center stamp at 700Fr), line engraving (upper left), offset plus thermogravure (upper right), gold-foil embossing (lower right) and "frequency modulation screening" (lower left).



- Member Othan Gilbert has kindly advised that the issue dates we've been listing (in New Issues and Withdrawals) for St. Pierre & Miquelon and French Polynesia are not always quite correct and can be off by a few days. In our defense, we have been using several French philatelic journals, plus *Linn's*, as our sources, and the dates they give do tend to disagree. We also had been led to believe that, in the case of St. P&M, there's generally a five-day spread in dates to allow collectors to purchase the stamps and then obtain official first-day cancels. This may not always be the case. We'll attempt to stick, starting now, to using only the official First Days, as provided by Mr. Gilbert.
- A "must" for thematic collections on Dogs! And perhaps also for collectors of the myriad official La Poste forms. We illustrate the cover of a multi-page form to be filled out in full detail by the owner of any dog who bites a French postman. Do we have an equivalent form from the U.S. Postal Service?



REVIEWS

Thomas H. Boyle, Jr., *Airmail Operations During World II*, ISBN: 0-939-429-20-9; 927 pp., 8½ x 11", softbound; 1998; many black and white ill., tables, and maps; \$40 from the American Air Mail Society, P.O. Box 110, Mineola, NY 11501-0110.

This is a monumental work, attractively printed. Aerophilatelists will not be the only ones to benefit from it. Readers of this journal, at least those collecting airmail covers from France or any of its possessions during the war, will be interested and helped in their efforts to understand the routes (and sometimes the rates) by which their covers were flown.

The work is built on a series of articles by Max Kronstein that ran in the *Air Post Journal* (published by AAMS) from 1939 to 1948, and is offered as a revision and enlargement of those articles. Emphasize *enlargement*. Simply put, Boyle tells about airmail from anywhere in the world, to anywhere, carried by any airlines, commercial or military, during the period from September 1939 until the end of 1945. While I can guess that Boyle might have overlooked a small carrier here and there, I'd be very surprised to learn that any carriers or routes of significance have been omitted from his description.

Areas of interest to Franco-philatelists have not been neglected. Boyle treats, at one place in the volume or another: France, all the French colonies in Africa, the French Levant, Guadeloupe and Martinique, French Guiana, Madagascar and Reunion, French India and Indochina, and New Caledonia.

Boyle has organized his work according to geographical sections of the world. Chapter 11, for example, treats France, French colonies in Africa (including Madagascar), and Monaco. There are 21 chapters in all. Country by country, he describes the wartime political situation, all the airlines flying mail in or out of the country, when they flew and when they were not able to fly, when and by whom mail was censored, and—if known to him—the rates charged for airmail letters.

This method makes for a considerable amount of repetition, since the situations from one country to another often involved the same airlines and political events. But it also allows one to research a given country with only minimal reference to information in other chapters. I assume Boyle did this intentionally so that the volume could serve as a handy reference tool. For the most part, one may read the introductory chapters and then go directly to the country to be researched.

The volume is a veritable treasure-store of information. It is illustrated freely with covers demonstrating the situations being described. It includes numerous maps, charts, and tables showing routes and rates. There are also excellent indexes.

I am involved with a study group researching airmail rates in all French areas through 1945. We had come to realize that the wartime situation was complex and difficult, not fitting the pattern of pre-war rate setting. Consequently I obtained Boyle's book with two hopes. One was to find information (or at least sources) about airmail rates we had not yet found. In this hope I was disappointed; Boyle has provided but few rates that were not already known to us. But in my second hope I was fully rewarded; Boyle has provided a detailed understanding of how airmail was being carried to and from France and all the French colonies during the war. That is an invaluable contribution to our work.

As with any work of this nature and size, some errors have been included. Boyle would have needed to be philatelically omniscient for it to be otherwise. Certain place names are frequently and inconsistently misspelled or wrongly lo-

cated, and the limited information about rates in the French areas is sometimes confusing and mistaken. A conversation with Boyle confirms that he did not have access to some of the most helpful philatelic literature in French (they are not included in his extensive bibliography). And for such articles as he had, he feels that he got poor translation help. Consequently, his knowledge of rates in the Francophone area is limited. I may add that our esteemed journal editor appears in the Prefaces as "Sidney J. Luft!"

But the fact that I can find some things to criticize should in no way detract from what is a marvelous accomplishment. I can only guess at the investment of time that has been required—without doubt, a number of years. Boyle deserves unqualified congratulations. The volume will be appreciated and used by many collectors, including those of us who collect in the French area.

--Bob Picirilli

Dictionnaire Philatélique & Postal; 1999; 228 pp., 7 x 9½", hardbound, numerous color and black-and-white illustrations; prepared and published jointly by the Académie de Philatélie and the Académie Européenne d'Études Philatéliques et Postales; 300Fr (+ postage and handling), from various sources.

For many years I had to make do with Dr. Joany's little *Petit Glossaire Philatélique et Postal*, which had been serialized in *Le Monde des Philatélistes* between May 1975 and October 1976, for any sort of in-depth definitions of French philatelic terminology. Incomplete as it was, it was at least "free," as part of my subscription.

Now we have a far larger, luxurious and extensive glossary (or dictionary), hardly gratis though, whose long-awaited launching was held during PHILEXFRANCE 99. The two presidents, respectively Jean-François Brun and Robert Françon, have written a foreword, though Françon unfortunately did not live to see the finished product. The terms defined here range from "A.O." [for autres objets] to "Voie des Bâtiments du Commerce." Dr. Joany did reach to "Z", with "Zemstvos," though that's hardly a French philatelic term. Many of the terms defined here are also cross-referenced, a definite plus.

Flipping through the pages, I learned that *Flan* is not just a Spanish custard but also the copy in lead (originally) made from a working die and then assembled in multiples (up to 150 *flans*) to form a galvano early in the flat-plate printing process (p. 109). The category of *Journaux semi-routés* dates from February 1971; these are small-circulation newspapers (like ours) that are mailed at rates between those for *routé* and non-*routé*, must bear a PP date stamp, and must be baled in quantities of at least 100 per department of destination (p. 123). And a *Taxe de traitement* dates from 1 January 1976 (international) and 1 August 1980 (domestic) and means that postage due is charged only on the insufficiency or lack of postage, rather than double that as previously prescribed (p. 201). Heavy going perhaps; in my English rendition, if not more so in French. Yes, there are lots of definitions to be found that will either confound you or enlighten you.

I found this work to be padded a bit more than perhaps necessary. Both *Académies* get to be listed. Over eight pages are devoted to definitions of various forms of *bureaux*. But then, it's a done thing and there won't be a better or more complete and useful dictionary (or glossary) for perhaps decades to come. Buy it now!

The book is well printed on opaque slick paper and is durably bound. It should serve the user well and will not become terribly fatigued with wear.

--S. J. Luft

Jean-Claude Delwaule, *Les Bureaux de Quartier de Paris 1863-1876, Période de l'Etoile*; 1999; 183 pp., A4 format, soft cover, numerous black-and-white and color illustrations; published by the Académie de Philatélie; 295Fr + postage, payable to the Académie; from La Poste aux Lettres, 17 Blvd. du Faub. Montmarte, F-75009 Paris, or from Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris.

This follows the earlier volume, Fascicule 2 of the Encyclopédie, covering the period 1852-1863. Since the announced scope of the Encyclopédie is limited to 1853-1870, those volumes published by the Académie which have extended time coverage are listed as separate works.

The format is easy to follow, with earliest and latest known dates for each of the Paris stations with their assigned numbered stars. For those stars with numeral varieties there is a careful listing of the address to be found in the corresponding dated cachet. At least one cover from every station is illustrated and, of course, I was pleased to see my discovery copy shown for Salpêtrière, Star 40. This catalog by stations takes the first half of the book. The second half is given to all the other possible uses of markings during the time period: mute stars, unpaid letters, mail during the Siege and Commune, railway stations, late dispatch, use of fiscal stamps, *levées exceptionnelles* (supplemental dispatch), such as delight the specialist and add spice to a collection of Paris. There are four color plates scattered through the volume.

This work considerably expands the information given in the last thirty pages of the 1958 catalog of Paris markings 1700-1876 by Rochette & Pothion. [Long out of print, and not cheap in the second-hand market.] I could have used this wealth of information when I was actively collecting the field. The pricing supplement for covers needs to be taken with a grain of salt, as the lowest quotation is F25 and the lists are infected with zeros rounding up to the next multiple of 100 Francs. Use it as a guide to relative scarcity with retail prices and do your own comparison with auction realized prices for comparable material.

--J. E. Lievsay

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q. 99.1.** The TAHITI/5c surcharge is one expected on postage stamps, but I was surprised to see it on an unstamped newspaper ["La Cloche"] wrapper, sent 19 June 1884 from Papeete to the Marquesas Islands (see illustration). Would this be a legitimate pre-cancellation, or a bit of fakery, or what? If legitimately prepared and used, what might its estimated scarcity and value be? (JRP).



NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 257, July 1999, p. 100)

France

- > 2 (5) July: [corrected dates for the 3,00F Cérés 1849-1999];
- > 5 (6) July: 3,00F / 0,46€ Celebration of the Year 2000;
- > 6 (8) July: 3,00F / 0,46€ Draw me the Year 2000;
- > 8 (12) July: 3,00F / 0,46€ 11 August 1999 Solar Eclipse;
- > 10 (12) July: French photographers (Nadar, Atget, Doisneau Cartier-Bresson, Lartigue, Brassai) 3,00F + 0,60F / 0,46€ + 0,09€ (x six); same in booklet at 21,60F / 3,29€, Armada of the Century, Rouen 1999 sheetlet of ten 1,00F / 0,15€ sailing-ship stamps at 10F-1,50€; 3,00F / 0,46€ Chateau at Arnac-Pompadour (Corrèze Dept.);
- > 11 (13) September: 3,00F / 0,46€ World Rugby Cup oval stamp, in sheetlet of ten; 4,50F / 0,60€ Frédéric Ozanam (1813-1853);
- > 18 (20) September: Council of Europe 3,00F / 0,46€ and 3,80F / 0,58€ (Greek statues);
- > 26 (27) September: 3,00F / 0,46€ the Emmaüs Movement, 1949-1999.

Withdrawals: 11 June: Actors of the French Cinema (six at 3,00F + 0,60F) and booklet; 3,00F "1914-1918"; 6,70F Art of Duchamp; 15F Farman Goliath air-mail; 30F Wibault 283 airmail.

Andorra

- > 9 (10) June: 4,50F European football (soccer) championships **round** stamp;
- > 2 (3) July: 3,00F PHILEXFRANCE 99;
- > 10 (11) July: Historical setting of PAL (buildings), two at 3,00F each;
- > 24 (26) July: 4,40F 50th Anniv. Of Inter. Federation of Photographic Art;
- > 4 (6) September: 15,50F Rull House at Sispony.

Withdrawals: 9 July: 3,00F Festival of music [EUROPA]; 3,00F 20th Anniv. Of Andorran Rotary Club; 4,50F Autel de Vila.

French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

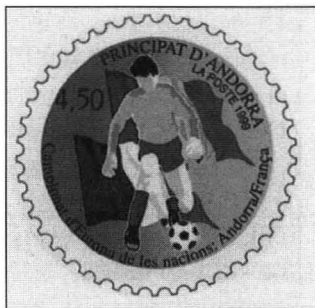
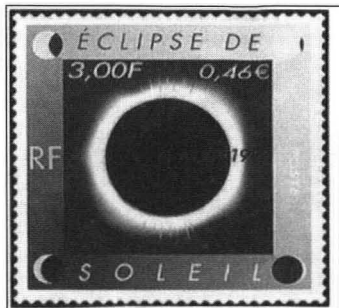
- > 1 (3) May: 100F "Voyage" booklet of 12 sheetlets, each bearing one concordant permanent-value stamp [currently worth 5,20F each];
- > 2 July: 25F PHILEXFRANCE 99 sheetlet with four stamp-on-stamp 5,20F values.

French Polynesia

- > 16 February: [Corrected date for the 118F Year of the Rabbit];
- > 2 July: PHILEXFRANCE 99 180F stamp and 500F sheetlet; 250F Hommage to Chopin;
- > 21 July: [Corrected date for the Fruit of the fenua stamps and booklet];
- > 27 September: 400F 50th Anniv. of the Institut Mallarmé;
- > 14 October: Painters and nudes of Tahiti: 85F, 120F, 180F, 250F;
- > 10 December: 90F Festival of the Arts of the Marquesas Islands.

Withdrawals: 1 January 1999: Marine mammals (two issued in 1994), 180F Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny (issued 1994), 154FF Church of Saints and the Last Days (issued 1994); 316F Bicent. of the CNAM (issued 1994), 136F 20th Anniv. of the Tahitian Academy (issued 1994), 500F 10th Anniv. of internal autonomy (issued 1994), 1000F "Faaturama" by Gauguin (issued 1994); 302F Hawaiki Nui Va'a (issued 1994), Painters of Polynesia (four issued in 1994); 92F 220th Anniv. of Spanish expeditions (issued 1995), 290F 100th Death Anniv. of Pasteur (issued 1995), 356F 400th Anniv. of Disc. of the Marquesas (issued 1995), 364F Singapore '95 (issued 1995); 100F 50th Anniv. of the Pacific Battalion (issued 1996)

Withdrawals: 31 July: 150th birth anniv. of Gauguin (three items), Edible mushrooms, territorial museum (mask), Tjibaou Cultural Centre, World Football Cup, booklet of 10 red permanent-value Cagou bird stamps.



Mayotte

- 24 May: 3,00F / 0,46€ Euro logo stamp of France [issued 1-4 January 1999], overprinted MAYOTTE;
- 5 (7) June: 5,40F Founa (civet cat); 8,00F Baobab tree;
- 19 June: 12F PHILEXFRANCE 99 sheetlet of four 3,00F stamps.

Withdrawals: 31 July: 3,50F face of a woman, 3,00F Le Maki, 3,00F coral and marine flora, 5,00F 20th Anniv. of first air connection between Mayotte and Reunion.

Monaco

- 5 May: 1999 Economic Jubilee, two 5,00F se-tenant stamps; EUROPA 99: Parks and National Preserves, two 3,00F / 0,46€ se-tenant stamps; 2,70F / 0,41€ PHILEXFRANCE 99; 9 May: 20F Rainier III Jubilee 1949-1999 in miniature sheet; 30F / 14,57€ ditto, in sheetlet of six stamps depicting issues from various times during his reign; 25 May: 4,50F / 0,69€ 200th Birth Anniv. of Balzac; 5,20F / 0,79€ 200th Birth Anniv. of the Countess of Ségur;
- 2 July: 3,00F / 0,46€ 125th Anniv. of the UPU; 4,00F / 0,61€ Iris flower "Rainier III"; 4,20F / 0,64€ 50th Anniv. of Monaco's participation in UNESCO; 10F / 1,52€ 10th edition of SPORTEL; 11,50F / 1,75€ 900th Anniv. of the Order of Malta; 3,00F / 0,46€ Bourse du Jubilé (I); 7,00F / 1,07€ PHILEXFRANCE 99.



Withdrawals: 4 May: EUROPA, two at 3,00F; 2,70F Inter. Dog Show; 3,00F Peace Academy; 4,00F 15th Spring of the Arts; 4,50F 38th TV Festival; 5,00F MOSCOW 97; 4,00F Design competition for children under 13; 4,40F 31st Inter. Bouquet competition; 3,00F 22nd Circus Festival; 4,60F ASCAT; 4 June: 30F imperforate block.

New Caledonia

- 17 June: Escoffier hotel school: two 70F stamps + labels;
- 19 June: 135F Humanitarian missions of the ETOM 00052 Squadron;
- 3 July: PHILEXFRANCE 99: sheetlet of four stamps at 100F + one at 700F celebrating 140th Anniv. of first New Caledonia stamp [see Announcements & News]; 70F first New Caledonia stamp [see Announcements & News]; 70F first New Caledonia stamp (the "Triquera" production) + label.

Withdrawals: 31 July: yellow Cagou bird stamp; red permanent-value Cagou bird stamp; blue Cagou bird stamp; Gauguin 1848-1998; edible mushrooms; Territorial museum (mask); Tjibaou cultural centre; World Football Cup; booklet of two permanent-value red Cagou bird stamps.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 7 April: corrected date for the 3,00F / 0,46€ stamp and booklet of France overprinted for the islands (and not 10 April as reported in previous number);
- 5 May: corrected date for the 20F Pintail Duck airmail (and not 10 May, as reported earlier);
- 23 June: 12F PHILEXFRANCE 99 sheetlet of four stamps at 3,00F (stamps-on-stamps);
- 7 July: 12F Maritime history; sheetlet of four stamps at 3,00F (boats of various periods);
- 11 August: 18,50F Place de Gaulle triptych;
- 6 October: 3,00F Museum.

Wallis & Futuna

- 17 May: Deep waters of the lagoon: 875F sheetlet of one stamp at 20F and one at 855F;
- 14 June: Birds of Nuku Fotu 10F, 20F, 26F and 54F is se-tenant strip of four;
- 2 July: 200F PHILEXFRANCE 99 miniature sheet;
- 23 August: 17F Territorial Assembly of the islands.

Withdrawals: 31 July: Telecom at Wallis, Alofi Beach, Pacific orchids (four stamps), preparation of the Umu, Lagoon fisherman: return from fishing.



NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

- *Catalogue Cérès France 1999-2000*; 109Fr + postage, from the usual sources. (Now includes specialized sections on typographic obliterations; cancels on the Sage issues; varieties on 20th Century regular issues through the Marianne de Muller and coat-of-arms issues; and other general improvements over the earlier editions).
- *Cérès CD-ROM 1999-2000*; 249Fr + postage. (Covers France, Monaco, Andorra, French Polynesia and TAAF; improved and easier-to-use Mac and PC version of the 1998 edition.) From your usual sources or from Cérès Philatélie, 23 rue du Louvre, F-75001 Paris (Fax 01 42 33 61 67).
- B. Fréchet and R. Rucklin, *L'Impression des carnet ouverts de timbres autocollants* ("The production of open-face booklets of self-adhesive stamps"); CD-ROM for Macs and PCs; 120Fr + postage, from Cercle des Amis de Marianne, c/o Jean Renard, 26 Allée des Roses, F-37270 Montlouis-s-Loire, France. (The CD-ROM and updated version of the handbook previously noted on p. 126 of our N° 254 [October 1998].)
- Jacques Foort, *Bureaux de Poste du Département du Nord – Timbres à date manuels – 1828-1998* ("Post offices of the Nord Dept.: 1828-1998 handstamps"), 2nd ed.; 700 pp., 21 x 30 cm; card cover; 270Fr (+33 Fr postage in France, inquire for elsewhere), details from author at 140 rue de Roubaix, F-59240 Dunkerque, France. (All post offices listed, with dates of opening and closing, modifications of their categories, etc.; appropriate postal bulletins; rural vehicular post, financial, telegraph and telephone services are also covered.)
- Gérard Collot and Alain Cornu, *Lignes africaines – Histoire aérophilatelique – Tome 1: Les défricheurs: 1911-1931* ("Aerophilatelic history of aviation in Africa during the pioneering period"); 1999; ca.200 pp., abundantly illustrated with photos, maps, rare covers and documents; separate leaflet gives valuations of some 500 covers that are described; 360Fr (+65Fr postage within France, more elsewhere), payable to Editions Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris.
- J.-F. Brun, R. Françon and J. Storch, *Catalogue encyclopédique Marianne 1849-1900*; 172 pp., 16.5 x 22.5 cm; 115Fr + postage, from usual sources or from Timbropresse, 21 blvd. Montmartre, F-75080 Paris Cedex 02. (The most detailed French catalog for the issues of 1849 to 1900.)
- *Quand les Classiques de France et des ex-Colonies françaises nos sont contés*; vol. II; 1999; 164 pp., A4 format, card cover, profoundly illustrated in color; 250Fr + postage, from Timbropresse (address above). (Well-illustrated articles from *Timbroscopie*, on Classic stamps of France and the former Colonies, assembled here in a companion volume to the earlier similar production.)
- *Catalogue Yvert, vol. 1, France 2000*; 464 pp., 98Fr + postage (soft cover) or 120Fr (+postage) card cover, from the usual sources; also *vol. Ibis, Monaco, Europa, United Nations, Andorra 2000*, 320 pp., 60Fr + postage (soft cover); *vol. 2 Colonies françaises et TOM 1999*, 504 pp., 170Fr + postage (soft cover.)
- *Timbres de France – Le Spécialisé – 1849-1900* ["Specialized catalog of French 1849-1900 stamps"], 400+ pages, soft cover, 330Fr + postage before December 1999, and 380Fr afterwards (credit cards OK), from the publisher, Yvert & Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, F-80036 Amiens Cedex 1; (Fax 33-03-22-71-71-89; e-mail: mail@yvert-et-tellier.fr); also from the usual sources.
- Jean-Jacques Tillard, *Epreuves, essais et non dentelés de Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon*; 70 pp., illustrated in color; 140Fr postpaid, payable to author at Boite Postale 764, 97500 St-Pierre & Miquelon. (Detailed description of the proofs, essays and imperforate stamps of the islands, with valuations.)
- R. Gregnac-Daudemard, *Oblitérations manuelles de Var - Marques postales*; 1999; 54 pp., illustrated; 33Fr; inquire of author, at Bd. Des Arbusiers, F-83120 Sainte-Maxime, France.
- Michel Lesaint, *Aldé entre cachets et flammes des 24 heures du Mans*; 68 pp., 120Fr postpaid; checks payable to the author, at 47 rue des Acacias, F-72000 Le Mans, France. (The celebrated 24-hours Le Mans auto race, illustrated by all the cachets produced since 1923 to commemorate the race, and by appropriate postal cards.)

FCPS National Meeting at ROMPEX 2000 – Preliminary Announcement

Our Society will hold a National Meeting at ROMPEX 2000, Denver, Colorado, May 19-21, 2000. We can expect that our President will attend, and will be present at our Society table, except when attending our Saturday meeting. This will be an informal meeting, with one or two presentations (one of them by President Dick Stevens). Up to 100 exhibition frames (16-page frames) will be reserved for our exhibiting members, until March 1, 2000 — when those not taken will be offered to other exhibitors, and there will be an APS-accredited France & Colonies judge. The best F & C exhibit shall receive the coveted FCPS Medal, in addition to ROMPEX and other awards, at the Saturday evening Awards Banquet. There will be a Friday evening FCPS dinner and reunion at a very affordable French restaurant. The show hotel has affordable room rates. Please request a prospectus/entry form from your Editor. Whether you plan to exhibit or not at this World Series of Philately show, please advise your Editor as to whether you might attend in person and be at the FCPS's Friday dinner. It's never too early to make plans at your end and arrangements at ours!

APS STAMPSHOW

**August 26-29, 1999
Cleveland, Ohio**

France & Colonies Philatelist

Vermeil




CHAIRMAN OF LITERATURE JURY

CHAIRMAN OF STAMPSHOW COMMITTEE

SOME SHOW REPORTS

- WESTPEX'99 (San Francisco, April): Gold medal to Paul Larsen for "Ubangi-Shari-Chad 1900-1939", Silver medal to Steve Washburne for "Portuguese Christmas Postal Cards."
- TEXPEX'99 (Dallas, April): Grand Award and Gold medal to Frederick Mayer for his exhibit of the U.S. 1856 5 cent."
- NOJEX'99 (Secaucus, NJ, May): Gold medals to Dick Winter for his US-British Transatlantic mail exhibit and to Eliot Landau for his Lincoln Memorial exhibit; Vermeil medals to Steve Washburne for "Monmouth County, New Jersey" and to Thomas ("Tuck") Taylor for his exhibit of early Washington, DC markings.
- COLOPEX'99 (Columbus, OH, June): Silver medal to Steve Washburne for "Portuguese Christmas Postal Cards."
- PIPEX'99 (Portland, OR, June): Gold medal to Bill Bartlett for "French Postage Dues: 1859-1964"; Silver medal to Bob Kinsley for "Spanish Civil War, Refugees in France."
- PHILEXFRANCE 99 (Paris, July, FIP): **Championship Class: Grand Prix d'Honneur** to Jamie Gough. **Traditional Class:** Gold medals to Denise (and Ray) Gaillaguet and to Frederick Mayer; Large Vermeil to George Barker; Large Silver to Dave Herendeen. **Postal History Class:** Large Gold medal and **Grand Prix National** to Steve Walske; Large Gold and Special prize to Dick Winter; Gold with Felicitations to Jeff Bohn; Gold and Special prize to Ed Grabowski; Gold to Alain Millet; Large Vermeil and Special prize to J.-F. Gibot; Large Vermeil to B. Berkinshaw-Smith and to Lew Bussey; Vermeil to Chuck LaBlonde; Large Silver to Tom Siddens. **Fiscal (Revenue) Class:** Large Gold with Felicitations to Ralph Malmgren; Large Vermeil to Serge Bernard. **Literature Class:** Large Silver to Stan Jersey; Silver medals to Robert Abensur, J.-F. Gibot, and Jerry Massler. Quite a record! And Felicitations to you all. John Lievsay served on the jury.
- APS Stampshow'99 (Cleveland, August): More good showings by our members! **Champion of Champions competition:** Prix d'Honneurs to Ed Grabowski (Guadeloupe) and to Frederick Mayer (Macao); **Open competition:** Gold medal to Paul Larsen for "Ubangi-Shari-Chad 1900-1938"; Vermeil medal to Earle Plyler (U.S. 2 cent rates); **Literature competition:** Gold medal with Felicitations to Peter Smith for his handbook on Egypt philately; Vermeil medals to our Journal, and to Dave Herendeen, editor, "British Caribbean Philatelic Jour." Silver medal to Larry Lambert and Ken Nilsestuen for their Classification of the date stamps of Algeria 1835-1962.

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

Among the several old and new friends I was able to meet at PHILEXFRANCE 99 was Dr. Thomas Berger, a young (for our hobby!) German biologist currently doing teaching and research at the University of Berne in Switzerland. His collecting specialties include French registered mail of the 1870s and the 25c Sage. In the past year or so he has assembled a very extensive web site (www.datacomm.ch/t.berger/FPHindex.htm) in English and/or French and several "satellite" web pages, which one can find from working this main one. These are chockfull of good stuff, i.e., extensive dealer listings, specialized societies listings, French postal museums, bibliographic references, etc. as well as matter relating to his collecting interests. Highly recommended!

PHILEXFRANCE 99 reports from attendees—including me—are to be found elsewhere in this number. Awards obtained by our exhibiting members are listed in "Some Show Reports." I hope that no one was inadvertently omitted.

Turning back the clock by two-plus years, to PACIFIC 97, I had met (and recruited) there some Australian visitors and learned from them of the Colonial Challenge. I had meant to write a bit about it, but don't recall whether I ever did. Probably not. In brief, some 30-plus Down Under philatelists, looking for something new to collect, agreed that each of them would start collecting a different former French colony and that, after a few years would have elapsed, to hold a competition. It seems that, as of 1999, a number of the contestants have amassed considerable material that is worthy of being exhibited, and at least

20 of them may do so in Canberra in March 2000. Highly commendable. Which should lead one to think: are you in need of a new collecting challenge? There is plenty of Colonial material out there. Not even Ed Grabowski or Paul Larsen could possibly grab it all.

Lately we've been running more longer articles and, perforce, less short articles and other contributions. This situation tends to be an occasional, short-lived one, and we apologize to our other, very patient authors for this delay in seeing their work in print. We must remind our readers and writers that, except for our regular and "time is of the essence" features, and except for "Amazing 1870/1871 Wonder Stories"—which must keep apace with the even-numbered offerings published in our British sister journal—all articles (especially mine!) undergo a certain gestation period in my file cabinet. The rule is, or should be, "first in, first out", **except** for (1) space constraints, and (2) need to balance subject matter within and between issues of this Journal.

PHILEXFRANCE 99 — ONE MAN'S IMPRESSIONS

Total attendance for the show's 11 days has been reported to me as being either 310,000 or 274,000. Either figure seems exceedingly high and would appear to be pure estimates, when one considers the large proportion of uncounted people (those with badges, passes, etc.). I was there only on two weekdays, when the cavernous hall sounded mighty hollow; things obviously must have perked up on weekends. It was extremely evident that La Poste (the principal patron) was in complete charge of the operation, and that it catered very much to young and incipient collectors. Its exhibits, sales and cancellation booths, and its many special activities were localized mainly in the front half of the hall and easy to find. As were the many nations' sales stands and their stocks of "passport" stamps. Commercial dealers were generally to be found near the back; and the stands of the specialist societies way, way in the back. Exhibits were placed anywhere they wouldn't interfere with foot traffic; lighting for the frames was uneven, as was their numbering system; some frames were rather dirty. All in all though, it was a spectacular event with great material in the frames and great and expensive material with the dealers. But not as bright and comfortable on the feet as ten years ago; guess I must be getting older...and sooner, if not just plain jaded by the big show concept.

The Association de la Presse Philatélique Francophone, to which yours truly got himself accredited (badge, but no shirt-pocket clip available), presented to the visiting public 70 foreign publications (including our *Philatelist*) from 19 countries, and 84 (mostly societies journals) from France. Unfortunately, these were not in open display (as opposed to the formal Literature competition), so we probably won't know if our Society recruited anyone there who might have perused our offering.

What exhibits (mainly French postal history and tradition) I was able to visit in the too brief time allotted ranged from very good to superlative and, for the most part, were far stronger than those I recall from the 1980s (and even from PACIFIC 97). Yet, when I obtained a copy of the *Palmares*, I was stunned to see most of them judged one or even two medal levels below my guesstimates. International juries obviously are expecting much more of the exhibitor than ever before, and I'm exceedingly glad to have retired from international exhibiting. Our members' awards are listed elsewhere, under "Some Show Reports." Congratulations to all you exhibitors, and especially to the two major winners in the entire show: Jamie Gough (Grand Prix d'Honneur) and Steve Walske (Grand Prix National). What a coup for our U.S. members! --S. J. Luft

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I am writing this just after returning from APS Stampshow 99 at Cleveland. Walter Parshall and I were there for the first two days. There appeared to be a good attendance, although it was a bit difficult to tell: the bourse had an unusually large number of dealers; as a result the customers were spread out, and few dealers had their tables crowded.

One unusual feature of this Stampshow was an entire section of dealers offering your choice of worldwide covers for \$1 apiece. I must admit I find I cannot patronize such dealers. They are very tantalizing, because I know there are many covers I would buy that could well be found in these bulk lots. However, the dealers can only offer those prices because they have not expended the time to sort the covers; and my interests are too limited to justify the time required to search through such a random mix.

Next year the APS Stampshow is scheduled for Providence, Rhode Island. I am hopeful that we will be able to arrange to have a France & Colonies Philatelic Society table at that show. Anyone interested in being involved should contact me.

-- Dick Stevens

NEW MEMBERS

- 3204 DEVORE, RONALD M., 27522 Velador, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. World War II.)

REINSTATEMENTS

- 1513 MOREHOUSE, DOUGLAS A., 10 Cypress Road, Somerset, NJ 08873. (Topical: Booklets - Scott Issues - Red Cross Issues - Art; General France: Mint - Used. Modern France: Mint - Used - On Cover - Sowers. Andorra. Monaco. Colonies General Issues: Mint & Used - On Cover. All Colonies And Territories, F.S.A.T.)
- 2838 BOSSARD, ALAIN R., 5-1160 Shillington Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 7Z4 Canada. (Already In Philatelist.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2180 KINSLEY, ROBERT T., 5410 Fern Loop, West Richland, WA 99353.
- 1816 LACHANCE, LEON J., 41 Rivers End, Seaford, DE 19973.
- 2707 GOLDSMITH, MICHAEL, Ramillies Building, 1-9 Hills Place Oxford Circus, London W1R (1AG), England.
- 1136 BALCH, STEVEN A., M.D., 424 Stratford Court - Apt. A-10 Delmar, CA 92014-2757.
- 2695 BELT, EUGENE H., 804 Brendle Trace, Springfield, OH 45503.
- 2826 AKERSTROM, DONALD B., 9100 E. Florida Ave - Apt. - 18-208 Denver, CO 80231-2866.
- 3198 KINDRACHUK, MARK (Corrected spelling).

DECEASED

- 289 PARKINSON, A.E. 3000 MAY, ALBERT F.

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