



France & Colonies Philatelist

Vermeil Medals at STAMPSHOW '99 and SESCAL 2000



Censored airmail cover with the Bastille Issue, used 28 February 1940 from Manja, Madagascar (RMStevens coll.) (reduced to 73.5%). As indicated by Tom Marra and Bill Mitchell in Whole N° 251 (January 1998), covers bearing this issue are very scarce.

CONTENTS

ARTICLES

Port De La Rochelle (<i>Robert T. Kinsley</i>)	35
A Gathering Of Entrepôts (<i>Hellebrekers, Kelly & Lambert</i>)	42

SHORTER CONTRIBUTIONS

General Delivery/Poste Restante (<i>Stanley J. Luft</i>)	38
France And Colonies P.S. (G.B.) Visit To The West Africa Study Circle (<i>W. G. Mitchell</i>)	40
French Military Postal Bureaus In Africa - Open And Closed (<i>S. J. Luft</i>)	40
Fakes And Fabrications Of The Red Cross Surcharge Issues Of French Morocco, 1914-1915 (<i>Michael Parniak</i>)	41

REGULAR AND SPECIAL FEATURES

Some Show Reports	45
Random Editorial Jottings	46
Announcements And News	47
Reviews	50
For The Record	57
Members' Appeals	59
New Issues And Withdrawals	60

SOCIETY NEWS

President's Letter	62
Secretary's & Treasurer's Report For 2000	62
Membership Changes	64

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PORT DE LA ROCHELLE

by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180)

Another French rarity. In fact, we will introduce two rarities, not identified in the Scott catalogue and, if we include a mistake to be described later, there are at least three rarities as associated with this issue.

The stamp (Figure 1) is the beautiful depiction, by the eminent designer and engraver Henry Cheffer, of the Port of La Rochelle, capital of Charente-Maritime, a major seaport since the 12th century located north of Bordeaux (Figure 1). *It is a far happier choice than competing designs, such as the one shown in Figure 2. An auction in April 1998 by Jacques Robineau of Paris offered five of the six varieties of this stamp described in the Yvert & Tellier catalogue (Scott lists only three), and two of those varieties commanded a catalogue valuation of 29,500 francs (\$5300) and 28,000 francs (\$5000). That's getting into rarity range.



Figure 1. Black artist's proof, signed Henry Cheffer.



Figure 2.
Rejected
project by
Verecque
(coll. Musée
de La Poste,
Paris).

The Port of La Rochelle stamp was the first French stamp to be printed by line-engraving on rotary presses. The three types of this stamp listed in Scott are No. 251, Type I, with a serif at the top of the "E" of POSTES (Figures 3 and 4), printed from March 22 to June 8, 1929; No. 251A, Type II, with a break at the bottom of the inside and outside of the "O" in 10 fr. (Figure 3) and no serif on the "E" printed from September 18, 1930 to May 4, 1931; and

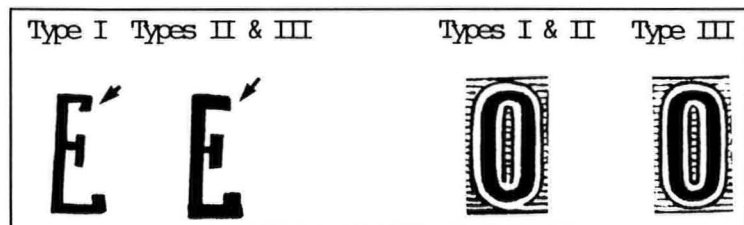


Figure 3.



Figure 4. Type I.

to consider just two types, with three transfer rolls (*molettes*) for the second type, the latter two of which resulted in Scott's Type III, but that's another story.

Now to the rarities as offered in Robineau's sale. There were two additional varieties of Type I produced, for each of which Yvert assigns a major number: No. 261A printed not in blue but in *chaudron clair*, a light reddish brown just like the concurrent Pont du Gard issue, and No. 261B, printed in *brun-noir* (brownish black). These two issues were printed in an unknown but very limited quantity for "an eminent French personage" according to FCPS member Henry Jervis, writing in *The Philatelic Magazine* of April 23, 1943. In that Robineau sale No. 261A realized 18,690 francs and No. 261B realized 17,955 francs. Bernard Behr, also of Paris, in his net price catalogue of February-May 1998, offers an imperforate variety of No. 261A (261Aa) for 19,000 francs as well as a superb copy of No. 261B for 21,000 francs (almost \$4000). Behr also offered an imperforate variety of Yvert No. 261 (Scott No. 252, the Type III) as an essay, since it was printed in red. Rarer than any of these offerings is a very limited trial printing, updated, of the Type II in bright ultramarine.

Students of this issue at the time in France concluded that a single master die was used for this stamp, from which three *molettes* (transfer rolls or roller dies) were prepared, representing the three types, and four plates for the actual printing. Following the printing of Type I the master die was reworked, the letters thickened and lines strengthened, and in this process the serif on the "E" disappeared. After the open "O" flaws were detected in Type II the master die was corrected (Type III) since it was impractical to retouch every impression on the roller die. The stamps were printed in sheets of 25 until May 1936. When additional quantities of Type III were printed beginning in November 1937 a fourth plate was prepared to print the stamps in sheets of 50.

We promised a mistake, an error associated with this issue, and although numerous unlisted varieties, re-entries and plate wear flaws have been reported, those are not considered errors. We've all heard of collecting plate blocks. This specialty is also a serious collecting interest in France except instead of plate blocks they are *coin daté* (corner-dated) blocks. In France the date of printing is impressed by a separate roll on the lower left-hand corner of every sheet of line-engraved stamps (Figure 6)¹. As a result of a mistake which, at the time Henry Jervis reported on this issue in April 1943, had never been repeated, the plate was reversed and the first sheets of the first

No. 252, Type III, with no breaks in the "O" and no serif on the "E" (Figures 3 and 5) printed between June 19, 1931 and 5 April 1932 and from January 19, 1935 to February 26, 1938. Scott identifies Type III as dark ultramarine, while Yvert lists two shades of Type III, Yvert No. 261 as blue and No. 261a as outremere (ultramarine). French authorities prefer



Figure 5. Type III.



Figure 6. Coin daté block, 26 June 1931 printing.

ferred by Behr in 1997 for 3500 francs. The search did reveal in that part of the Dubus collection offered by Jean-François Baudot in his December 1988 mail sale a copy of Yvert No. 261A which realized 12,500 francs, as well as two essays, one violet and one red. Baudot's sale of December 1993 contained, in addition to an early corner block of May 23, 1929, examples of an apparent constant variety of Type II described as *cadre au bas*, *bavures*, *rare* (bottom frame line smudged, rare). His sale of March 1998 included another essay, this time in green se-tenant with an essay of the Pont du Gard issue (Figure 7); the pair realized 14,200 francs (almost \$2600). This suggests that an additional plate was prepared for these colorful essays.

Thus with special dignitary issues, varieties, essays, misplaced corner dates and lots of re-entries, this issue has much to commend it to the serious, as well as affluent, collector.



Figure 7.

Endnote

[1] The Chambron rotary presses deliver sheets of large size stamps in continuous rolls with the short sides of the stamps parallel to the edges of the roll. Thus, a sheet of stamps of vertical design will appear to be dated on the right hand corner even though the date is actually on the left side as the sheet emerged from the press.

(Figures 1 & 6 were inadvertently cropped; we will reprint them in their entirety in the next issue.)

type, those printed on March 22 to 26, 1929, showed the date at the right corner. Jervis claimed that the dated corner blocks of these few sheets rank in rarity just behind the exclusive *chaudron clair* printing for *une personnalité haut placée*. Who was that person? [NDLR: Premier Raymond Poincaré and close relatives and friends have been mentioned.] A brief search of French sale catalogues did not turn up such an early corner block for sale, the earliest being April 20, 1929 offered

GENERAL DELIVERY / POSTE RESTANTE

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

Most French (and Monaco) cover collectors have seen or own covers where-in payment for a fee in excess of ordinary postage has been made, in conjunction with the phrase "poste restante" within the address. This practice began on 1 May 1920 though, for well over a hundred years prior to that date, there was no charge levied for the simple task of picking up one's mail at the post office.

The charge, originally 20 centimes per item, could be prepaid by the sender, usually with postage stamps, or paid by the recipient, usually with postage-due stamps affixed by the post office at destination (Figure 1).

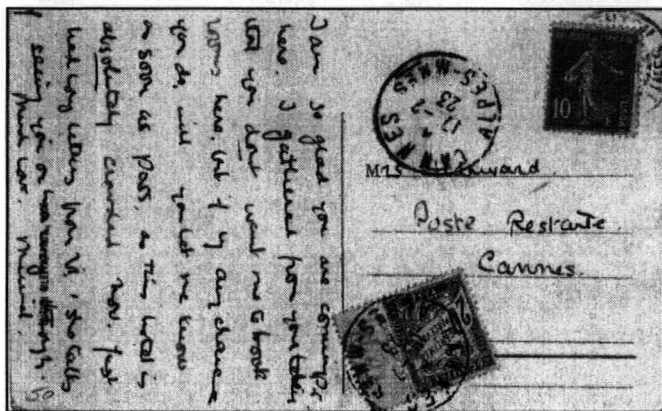


Figure 1. 20c general-delivery fee, paid with postage-due stamp at Cannes P.O., 17 February 1923. (Reduced to 78%)

Travelling salesmen (and other commercial travelers) could also purchase a yearly permit for 10 francs. This consisted of a postal administration formule, generally buff colored, to which 10F in postage stamps were affixed. The permit also served as an identity card for picking up one's mail (without

further charges), and had to be surrendered in order to purchase the following year's permit. Because of this, and because of a year's wear and tear while in one's pocket, such cards very seldom appear on the market.

The next improvement on the system came with the domestic Tariff of 14 July 1922. One's newspapers could be picked up at the *poste restante*

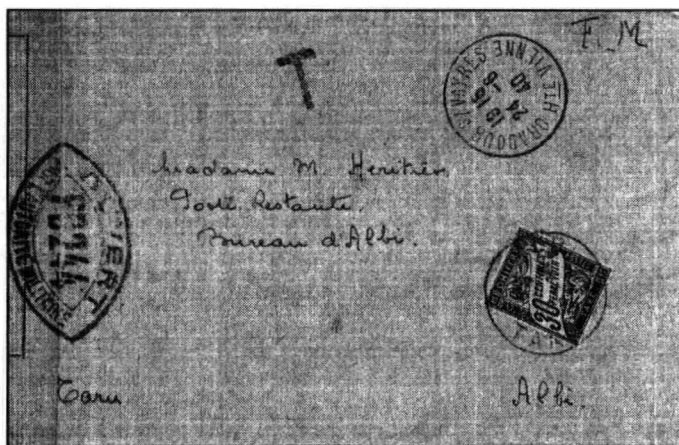


Figure 2. 30c fee, on censored military-franchise cover, paid with postage-due stamp at Albi P.O., 27 June 1940. (Reduced to 78%)

window for a mere 5c. And ordinary people could also purchase annual permits, albeit for twice (20F) the cost to commercial travelers.

The system has changed but little since 1922, other than that its rates paralleled, with inflation, other postal rates (Figures 2 and 3). Newspapers remain receivable at about half the cost of other mail. Annual permits, which until July 1957 were twice as expensive for the general public, have since



Figure 3. 60c fee paid at Marseille with pair 30c postage-due stamps, April 1941. Rate was still 30¢ per item. Could the 60c have paid for two letters retrieved together? (Reduced to 78%)

climbed to about three times (give or take) more than for commercial travelers. The Tariff of 5 July 1993 states that *poste restante* charges for newspapers are 1,40F each and, for other items, 2,80F each, with no mention of annual permits. There's no mention of *poste restante* at all in La Poste's current (Tariff of 18

March 1996) listing of principal charges, but I expect the service still exists, probably for somewhat more than during July 1993 - March 1996. I thank Jack Blanc for having reminded me, in his brief article (replete with numerous illustrations of formules with affixed stamps!)¹ on the subject of *cartes d'abonnement à la poste restante*, that this might be of interest to our readers. I also thank Derek Richardson² for making it so very easy to check, from year to year, on individual and annual-permit charges.

Endnotes

1. Jack Blanc, "Poste Restante: les cartes d'abonnement," pp. 47-49 in *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, N° 549, March 2000.

2. Derek Richardson, *Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to date*; F&CPS of Great Britain Brochure N° 7 (1992), p. 15.

FCPS National Meeting at the 2001 Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition

This World Series of Philately show, better known to us old-timers as SEPAD, will be held October 12-14, 2001 at the Fort Washington Expo Center, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania. Frame fees are \$10 for from one to ten 16-page frames per exhibit; juniors may show one frame for a \$2 fee. Entries will close August 20 unless space has been sold beforehand. Our President will have more to say in his Letters on possible Society activities during the show. For the prospectus and other information, inquire of Stephen S. Washburne, P.O. Box 43146, Philadelphia, PA 19129-3146.

FRANCE AND COLONIES P.S. (G.B.) VISIT TO THE WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

On a damp and dreary pre-Christmas Saturday (16 December 2000) in London members of the West Africa Study Circle, who are predominantly collectors of the former British colonies in West Africa, were given a fascinating insight into the philatelic interest of French West Africa (plus a brief excursion into Cameroun) by six of our colleagues in the France and Colonies P.S. of Great Britain. The day-long meeting was divided into three sessions, in the course of which many aspects of French West Africa philately were covered in some depth. The show took the form of a brief overview followed by a series of mini-displays on specialised subjects. The over-view began with a letter from Saint-Louis in Senegal to Bordeaux of 1822, only five years after the French resumed control there following the Napoleonic Wars, and covered the intervening 137 years to Independence (not to mention between six and eight separate colonies in its heyday) in 46 sheets. There followed specialised displays of Dahomey post offices, the development of air mails between Toulouse and Dakar, the postal history of Mauritania and the postal stationery. The second session, after lunch, began with an in-depth study of the de la Nézière definitive series (one for each colony) of 1913-1914 which continued in use (in Dahomey at least) until well into World War II. This was followed by displays of the post offices of French Guinea, air mail rates to France 1925-1945, and a detailed survey of the political and postal history of French Sudan. After a break for coffee there followed a survey of campaign and other military mail, 1865-1959, a light-hearted look at post-independence Cameroun, the two World Wars including a specialized study of World War II censorship, air mails along the coast south and east from Dakar and into the interior, and finally oddments covering such postal services as telegrams, cables, registration and advice of receipt, and also makeshift arrangements in times of stamp shortages.

Not all the West African colonies were covered on an individual basis, but all were featured in one way or another. Almost the only aspect not covered specifically was railroad mail. The participants were Bill Mitchell, Peter Kelly and Michael Round, all of whom are members of this Society, together with Barbara Priddy, Michael Ensor and Mick Bister, the President of the G.B. Society who aptly summed up the whole show when he remarked that we had overwhelmed ourselves as well as W.A.S.C. with the richness of our material.

-- W. G. Mitchell

FRENCH MILITARY POSTAL BUREAUS IN AFRICA-- OPEN AND CLOSED

We have been advised (Pierre Couesnon, in *Timbres Magazine*, N° 8, December 2000) that the following Military Postal Bureaus (BPM) in Africa are still active: (1) **BPM 610** at Djibouti (Postal Sector 85 000), opened 1 May 1990 at what is still France's largest military base in Africa; it uses a hand-stamp, a Secap machine cancel, and a meter imprint. (2) **BPM 617** at N'Djaména, Chad (Sector 85 300), also open since 1 May 1990; it also has the same postal devices as BPM 610. (3) **BPM 635** at Libreville, Gabon, open since 11 June 1990; again also with the same three types of devices.

Other, now closed, BPMs in Africa, were **BPM 630** at Bangui, Central Africa Republic (1 May 1990-21 February 1999); **BPM 630A** at Bouar, Central African Rep (June? 1990-30 April 1991), which then became autonomous **BPM 631** (30 April 1991-1 December 1997); **BPM 613** at Hoddur and then at Baidoa, both in Somalia (4 January-15 December 1993); and **BPM 614** at Goma, Zaire (1 July-20 September 1994).

-- S. J. Luft

Fakes and Fabrications of the Red Cross surcharge issues of French Morocco, 1914-1915

by Michael Parniak

[NDLR: Monsieur Parniak's excellent article appeared in its entirety in "Le Rekkas," #28 (2000). Although well conceived and very convincing, it is far too long for reprinting in our Journal. Accordingly, only his page 13 Conclusions are given below, with the express permission of Jean Haik, editor of "Le Rekkas."]

Conclusions

In my opinion, almost all "errors" of the 1914-1915 Red Cross surcharges of French Morocco (inverted surcharge, double surcharge, double surcharge with one inverted, triple surcharge, etc.) are either fabrications or fakes. This is especially true for Yv. 58 (Sc. B5), since the limited printing (2500 stamps, 100 panes of 25) makes it very improbable that any errors would have been produced. The only possible authentic errors are Yv. 54 (Sc. B1), and perhaps certain double surcharge errors of Yv. 55 (Sc. B2). All other "errors" are fakes or fabrications.

The important criteria to assess the authenticity of Red Cross surcharge errors are:

1. color of the surcharge
2. composition of the cross of the surcharge (fakes probably have a three piece cross)
3. position of the surcharge (inverted cross should be in the upper left quadrant)

With these stamps, the operative phrase with these issues is "caveat emptor" - let the buyer beware! SPLM members should object when dealers offer such material for sale, especially if the item is offered as genuine (accompanied by a "certificate of authenticity" issued by that same dealer). By all means, purchase these fraudulent "errors" if you wish (I certainly do), but regard them as "reference material," and pay accordingly.

CORRECTIONS



"For the Record" N° 800 (In N° 263, January 2001, p. 28): Here is the missing Figure 1 [bottom of cover cropped to conserve space]

And, as one sharp-eyed reader noted, the January 2001 issue should be **Whole Number 263**, and not 262! Please amend your copy.

A GATHERING OF *ENTREPÔTS*

My *Entrepôt* article (FCP N° 262, October 2000) was but a mere bagatelle, designed to see what and how much I could say about a subject I knew very little about. I was therefore delighted that it elicited no less than three response, from widely scattered readers, and now given or paraphrased here in no particular order.

-- S. J. Luft

Boudewijn Hellebrekers of the Netherlands, our first respondent, sent copies of several additional *entrepôt* markings in his collection. Of particular interest, inasmuch as examples did not appear in my article, are Figure 1, an

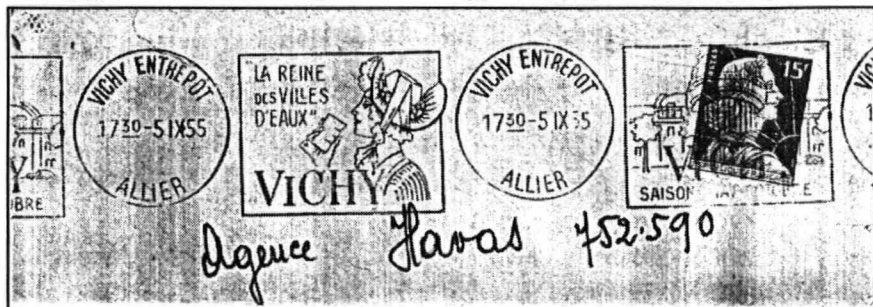


Figure 1. (reduced to 79%).

unusual endless pictorial 1955 machine cancel from Vichy, and Figure 2, a handstruck 1982 Aéroport Charles de Gaulle cancel on registered PTT envelope, with added boxed *entrepôt* straightline (for the franchise?). Both are very desirable covers.



Figure 2. (reduced to 71%).

Peter Kelly of Bristol, England went even further with a variety of goodies. Figure 3 shows an actual Nancy Entrepôt of 1886, which differs somewhat from my article's Figure 1 in that the year date appears in the *dateur*. And,



Figure 3. (reduced to 82%).

quoting from the writeup of Peter's extensive Sage-period collection, "With the development of the railway system 'entrepôts' were set up at stations to deal with the exchange of mail bags between the 'ambulants,' 'courriers convoyeurs'; and 'courriers d'entreprise' who brought in mail from outlying post offices as well as moveable boxes."

One of Peter's philatelic specialties is the study of *boites mobiles* (moveable boxes) and he explains (*personal communication*, 13 December 2000) their close association with *entrepôts*:

"In the definition given by the *Dictionnaire [Philatélique et Postale]* reference is made to the delivery of mail to the Entrepôt by 'voitures d'entreprise.' These are private horse drawn vehicles operating under contract with the post office to collect mail along a set route at set times. A post box (the 'boite mobile') was attached to the vehicle and it stopped along the way to receive mail from the public. It also stopped at each post office on its route where the driver took down the box and took it into the post office where it was cleared and where, latterly the 'BM' handstamp was put on the face of the letter and the adhesive cancelled with the office stamp. Mail for the circumscription of that office was retained and the rest went forward with the vehicle to the next post office (known as the 'liasse'). The driver also took mail bags for forward delivery. The terminus of his route was either a post office or more often a railway station or entrepot and there the box would be cleared and the mail bags taken in. While I am certain that the entrepôts took in mail in this way I have never seen a 'BM' mark used in conjunction with an entrepot cds and it may be that they were not used. The role of

the private contractors in carrying mail in this way was important not only to the extent that it was of considerable assistance to the Post Office but also from the social viewpoint of combatting rural isolation which was a serious issue even in 1900." -- P. R. A. Kelly

There, you have it "all." A concise summary of the closely intertwined roles of entrepôts and of moveable boxes.

Finally, Kelly provides a short but useful list of references, for those who wish to pursue the subject further, especially (regarding the first three listed articles) the names of the 255 known *entrepôt* offices in France (and Algeria, Morocco, and Indo-China):

L. Brehard, *Feuilles Marcophiles [FM]*, N° 142 (November 1961);

L. Yves, *FM* N° 164 (March 1965);

L. Yves, et al, *FM* N° 170 (December 1966);

Jean Duren, "Les Entrepôts de Dépêches 1838-1918"; *Relais*, N° 56 (December 1996); this last is apparently the definitive study on the origin, function, personnel, services provided, and types of markings employed.

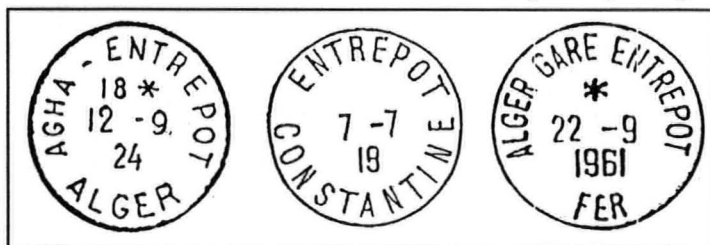
Many thanks to Messers Hellebrekers and Kelly, and now also to Larry Lambert of Missouri, who provided a full-scale short contribution on the *entrepôts* of his country of specialization, and which is printed here as a "free-standing" item.

The Entrepôt in Algeria

by Laurence H. Lambert (FCPS #1394)

Our Editor's excellent article on *entrepôt* marks was most interesting to me, for until I had read it in *FCP*, October 2000, I didn't fully know what an *entrepôt* was. This little item will supplement Stan's article with some information on the *entrepôt* marks of Algeria. The period covered is prior to 1962.

Since *entrepôt* marks did not come into usage in Algeria until about 1910, they are all of the single circle type. The first of these, said to have opened about 1910, is AGHA ENTREPOT ALGER (Figure 4), at Algiers. The second,



ENTREPOT CONSTANTINE (Figure 4), which is the most common of all the *entrepôt* marks and is represented in my collection by an example

Figure 4. Illustrations of three *entrepôt* marks of Algeria. The content and placement of the legend on these three marks vary slightly, as described above.

dated 1917, the earliest mark I have seen. In addition to these two, ENTREPOT ORAN (Figure 5), ALGER GARE ENTREPOT ALGER, ALGER GARE ENTREPOT FER (Figure 4) and ALGER GARE ENTREPOT AIR all came into existence late. I do not know of them prior to the 1950s.

On the cancellations, the *entrepôt* marks take three slightly different formats. These are office and service at the top of the circle, and department at the bottom (AGHA ENTREPOT over ALGER); service at the top, city at the

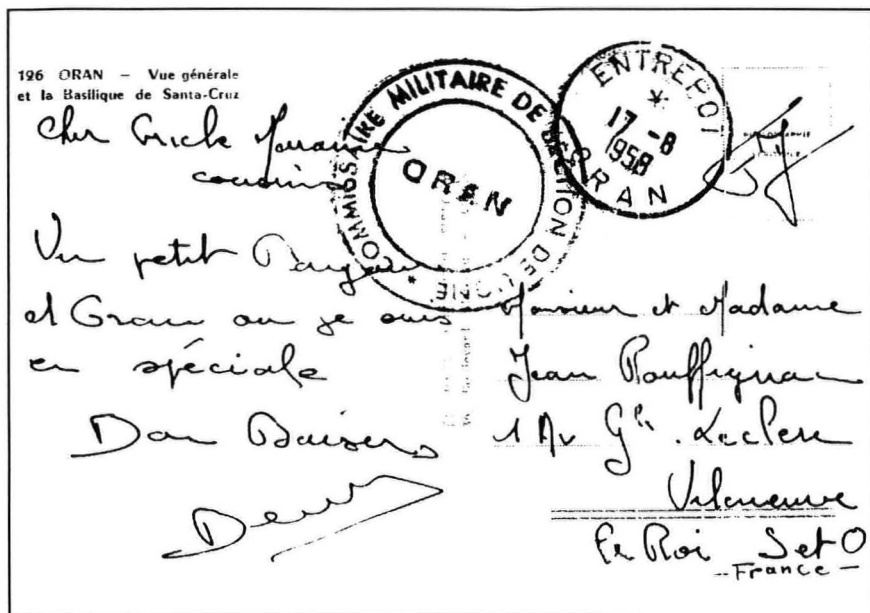


Figure 5. (reduced to 85%)

bottom (ENTREPOT over CONSTANTINE, ENTREPOT over ORAN); and of office and service at top and subdivision of service at the bottom (ALGER GARE ENTREPOT over FER, ALGER GARE ENTREPOT over AIR). These three types are illustrated in Figure 4.

This is the full extent of entrepôt marks in Algeria. While they may exist as a transit marking, I have never seen them used except as a postmark of origin.

SOME SHOW REPORTS

- ARIPEX/NORDIA 2001 (Tucson, AZ, January 2001): NORDIA Gold medal to Roger Quimby for his Russia used in Finland; ARIPEX Gold medal to Earle Plyler for his US 2¢ domestic Rates; One-frame Championship Class: Frederick Mayer for Nova Scotia Pence Issue; One-frame Vermeil medals to Lewis Bussey for "Battleship Richelieu, 1943-1945," and to Steve Washburne for Pennsylvania-Portugal mail. Steve also served on the NORDIA jury.
- York County Stamp Show 2001 (York, PA, January): Your editor agreed to help a small, deserving, far-away show, and was rewarded with the Reserve Grand Award for his "Marianne de Décaris (1960-1968)." Don't laugh, for the jury consisted of none other than APS President Dr. Peter McCann and eminent postal historian Dr. Robert Lana.
- SANDICAL 2001 (San Diego, January): Dave Herendeen's "The Evolution of Postage Due in the French Community, 1876-1930s" obtained the Reserve Grand Award and a Gold medal; Dave's British Empire postage due exhibit also received a Gold medal.; Novice exhibitor Jeff Ward's one-frame "Varieties and Uses of the 'View of Cayenne' Design" received a Silver-Bronze medal.

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

"Look before you leap!" Surprisingly, I did. Recently I spent some time going through old auction catalogs, etc. in search of data on why Barr (Bas-Rhin) used either a German date stamp or a manuscript cancel, often at similar times, between July 1871 and March 1872 (earlier and later dates probably exist). Then, showing a modicum of common sense, I e-mailed a request to Jean Pierre Bournique, one of the top experts on the postal history of Alsace-Lorraine, wondering if I had been the first to be aware of this puzzle or whether some learned tome had explained it long ago. His reply was immediate and direct: the town date stamp was applied at the post office; the manuscript scratches at the railway station, which evidently had not received a handstamp of its very own with which to cancel the mail posted from there or brought there from outlying villages. [At the end of the Franco-German War, Barr was the terminus of a branch line stretching to Strasbourg via Molsheim.] This simple e-mail exchange saved me from the embarrassment of concocting a weird tale wherein Barr's postal clerk(s) would, over a period of more than half a year, repeatedly misplace the date stamp(s).

OK, there must be a moral to this story. Simply stated, there's someone somewhere, possibly right here in our Society, who can provide the correct Answer to your Question. But first, the insertion of a Question into the Journal is a necessity.

You will find, in this issue of the Journal, a "symposium" of sorts on *Entrepôts*, prepared by three of our members. Enough already on *entrepôts*, you might protest? Maybe not, for as this issue was being readied for printing, another submittal arrived from England (where such topics seem to be taken quite seriously, as they should be). For the sake of diversity of reading matter, we won't publish it until later in the year.

We have learned to our sorrow that the Musée Postal of Brussels, which was created in 1931, first domiciled in 1936, and moved in 1972 to its present and imposing edifice in the heart of the city, closed its doors last September to the public and apparently also to its staff. The scuttlebutt is that the museum's contents and library are being packed for removal to some other locale, its building being coveted by the postal administration. We therefore hope to learn it will be reopened in the not-too-distant future. And that similar misfortunes don't befall other postal museums as the corps of philatelists becomes progressively older, smaller, and more inactive vocally (as well as philatelically). We fondly recall a rainy, gloomy Spring day in the mid-1980s when we spent an enjoyable several hours visit to the Brussels Postal Museum with its attentive and knowledgeable personnel.

We have an unusually large quantity of Reviews in this issue, which translates into less space for articles and other members' contributions. Sometimes that can't be helped, for postponed reviews could mean that the work may be out-of-print before you decide to order it for your library. We should expect some "better balance" in the upcoming July issue.

And we join our President in lamenting the ever decreasing number of our ranks. Please recruit new blood! France and Colonies have always been considered as favorites (top ten or so) among collectors' interests, so there should be people whom you know who perhaps haven't heard about our Society and its (ahem) prized journal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- In "New Issues and Withdrawals for January 2001 (N° 263, p. 29), we advised that a new French booklet had been issued 4 September 2000, consisting of the usual, current self-adhesive red Marianne de Luquet stamps on a new cover. Here (Figure 1) is what this Sterners booklet's cover looks like.

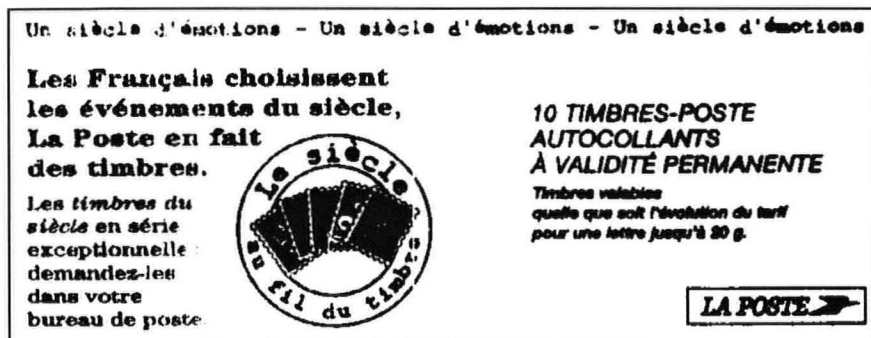


Figure 1.

- Our Director, Lou Robbins has been awarded the 1999 Philatelic Foundation's Mortimer Neinken Award for meritorious service to philately.
- Member Dick Graham has received the Mobile Post Office Society's annual literature award for his railroad and maritime mail columns in *Linn's*.
- On 1 January 2001, the isle of Reunion (an Overseas Dept. = DOM) will have been split politically into Réunion du Nord and Réunion du Sud. Presumably, St. Denis and St. Pierre will be the respective *chef-lieux*.
- During a part of its 13th press run (10-17 August 1999) the 1,00 Marianne de Luquet was printed with its single phosphor band on the left instead of the right. Press dates (*coins datés*) for this variety are 10 and 16 August 1999, with the latter day added to quell possible speculation. [Thanks to F. Keledjian, in *Marianne*, Bull. 120, April 2000.]
- Sylvine Vargoz has replaced Serge Debien as the Director of the Musée de La Poste, Paris.
- We welcome a new journal (well, almost new, apparently ca.3 years old now), *Le Bulletin du Cagou*, which is the organ of the Groupement Philatélique "Le Cagou," Boite Postale 1902, 98846 Nouméa Cedex, New Caledonia. This A4 format quarterly is devoted to the philately and postal history of New Caledonia and the French Pacific area, and should be full of good material. For further information, contact Alferd Roire, at the above address.
- The Grand Prix for Philatelic Art for 2000 went to (for France) the 3,00F Congress of the Federation of French Philatelic Associations, issued 19 (22) May 2000, and (for the Overseas Territories), the 300F Beauties of French Polynesia (Figure 2), issued 30 May 2000.



Figure 2.

- Walter Brooks, a former but long-time member of our Society, passed away in 2000. He had been suffering from an unfortunate variety of medical complications, but never lost his love of philately nor his sense of humor. Our good friend will be sorely missed. Walter was well known as a collector and successful national and international exhibitor of Siege of Paris balloon mail. Born in Great Britain, he spent much of his adult working years as a marine engineer with the Philadelphia Navy Yard. He also collected and exhibited U.S. and worldwide airmails and early 20th Century French definitives.
- Here (Figure 3) is a nice meter imprint from the first day of the new Century. Note that it's denominated only in euros, though the franc remains the official currency in France for the rest of 2001.

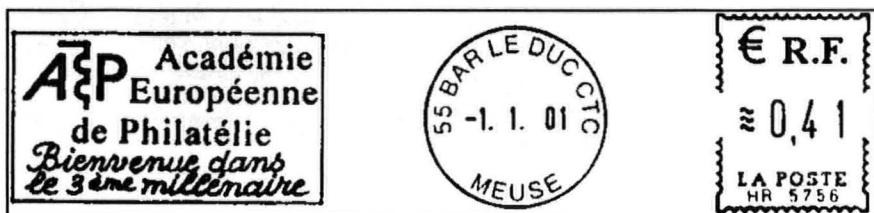


Figure 3.

- And here's a "new model" Paris cancel of 4 January 2001 (Figure 4). The placement of the two strikes indicates it to be a handstamp.

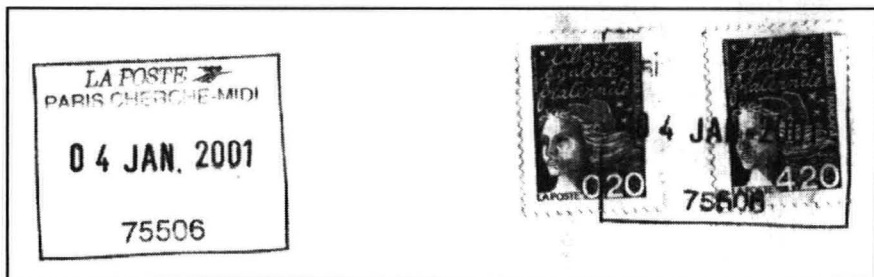


Figure 4.

- About 1,200,000 letters and cards were signed by the Père Noël (Santa Claus to be uninitiated) and mailed from the Libourne postal facility during November and December to anxiously awaiting school children throughout France. Some 60 postal people were employed full-time at this special task. Most other times of the year, Libourne (east of Bordeaux) is where undeliverable mail is assembled, for attempts at delivery or, at worst, return to sender.
- The day is fast approaching when the French franc will be superseded by the Euro. That fateful day is to be 1 January 2002. The changeover will affect currency and stamp-meter imprints as well as postage stamps. To the best of our knowledge, La Poste will repurchase only full post-office panes of stamps at face value, and only until 30 June 2002. Franc-denominated stamps can therefore be considered as having been demonetized at the end of 2001, but collectors should not be too terribly distraught, for previous demonetizations of old stamps has not necessarily been followed by a decline in their value. Nonetheless, French dealers apparently are now selling recent issues at below face. I believe the currency changeover may

even be good for the hobby as collectors could consider dropping purchases of Euro-denominated new issues at the end of 2001 and then going back in time to fill holes in their collections (or even picking up on covers and postal history...).

- New machine cancels appeared in 1999 in larger cities' CTCs (Centre de Traitement du Courrier). These are stamped by NEC machines, which sort and cancel large quantities of mail and are replacing the Toshibas. The NEC daters are slightly larger, with date and time on one central line, and with undulating five-line "killers" (Figure 5).

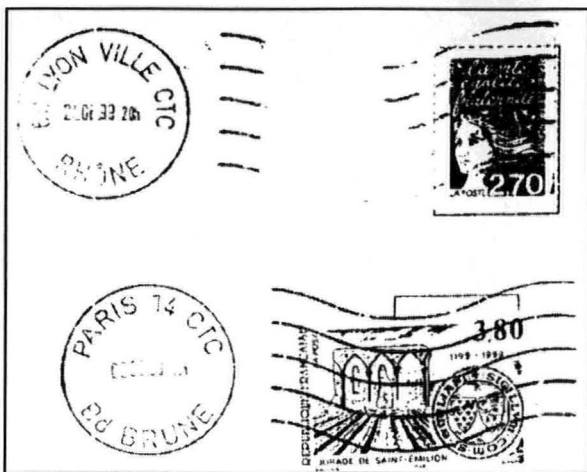


Figure 5.

- Earlier reports of the demise of *La Philatélie Française* were quite premature. The journal of the Federation of French Philatelic Associations had almost 4400 subscribers last year, and appears ten times a year with either 24 or 32 pages per issue.
- Stamp shows in France will now permit participation in a new *Classe Ouverte* (Open Class), similar in intent to the relatively new Display Class in the U.S. Exhibits may include as much as 50 percent non-philatelic material (unlike the Display Class' stricter 33 percent), and non-philatelists may serve on the jury for this Class.
- Dave Herendeen is the editor of the 5th edition of the APS "Manual of Philatelic Judging"--a work in progress at this writing.
- Member Bob Szymanski is the president of The Perfins Club, the society for collectors of Perforated Initials and Insigna on postage stamps. In spite of this heady activity, Bob actually reads our Philatelist from cover to cover. Noting in the July 2000 "Some Show Reports" that I had suggested that someone should recruit French perfin exhibitor Bruce Brunell, Bob did just that when he ran Bruce down (well, not literally) at last summer's Perfins Club convention. Thanks Bob, and welcome to new member Bruce Brunell!

REVIEWS

Claude-Bosc, *Catalogue Illustré des Marques Postales et Cachets à Date Manuels d'Algérie (1749-1962)*; xi + 223 pp. + index, 8" x 11½", hardbound, illustrated; available from Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun F-75009 Paris, France; 325 francs plus postage.

This is the best book to date on Algerian post offices and their hand cancellations. The book consists of a short introduction and key to the classification, followed by 223 pages of illustrations of all the available cancellations for each Algerian post office. In all, 5,500 different cancellations are represented. These are all the hand cancels that the author had or was able to locate, including those in the collection of the Musée de La Poste, and private collections accessible to him. Several people of the Société PHIL-EA provided assistance with the project, so that coverage would be the broadest possible. Killer cancels, including PCs and GCs, and secondary types of cachets are not included.

Indices of rarity for each cancel are given, and this is very useful information. Also included are some other information on individual post offices, such as date of opening and closing, PC and GC numbers, population, department, and class of post office. This latter information does not extend the knowledge, but is provided for convenience.

Included in the book are most of the existing cancels of Algeria, and many of such rarity that most of us have never seen them before. The book contains many cancels previously unknown to me. Nevertheless, there are some omissions, because some known cancels and some believed to exist could not be found within the available collections. Some rare and short-lived post offices are not represented, and some are represented by only a single cancel which may have been the only type used. Other bureaus, common and long-lived, are represented by as many as twenty cancels. Where there were multiple stamping dies (canceling devices) of the same type in use, each individual canceling device might be represented by an illustration of its postmark.

The quality of the original photocopies or drawings of the individual cancels is generally excellent, but one occasionally encounters a free-hand drawing of poor quality. The quality of reproduction of the illustrations by the publisher appears to be outstanding.

I personally have studied the book very closely. As an Algerian specialist, I would not be without the book, and find it indispensable for reference. For coverage of Algeria's cancel types, and for its illustrations, it is by far the best in existence, and will perhaps always be the best. I recommend it for anyone having even a casual interest in the cancellations of Algeria.

-- Laurence H. Lambert

Jun Ichi Matsumoto, *L'Histoire de la Poste Aérienne Franco-Japonaise 1870-1986*; (2000); 185 pp., 7¼ x 10", Japanese and French text on facing pages, 76 black-and-white illustrations and 3 color plates; ISBN 4 88963 593 9; UK£30.00 (+£1.00 postage), or US\$42.50 (+ \$2.00 postage), by check or credit card to James Bendon Ltd, P.O. Box 56484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus; fax + 357 5 632 352.

The Japanese text is far sparser and surely more economical of space than the French (which is the language I worked with) and the majority of covers are therefore shown on the left (Japanese) pages. In his Postscript, author thanks his French-language translators for what appears to me to be a very well done job. Most of the covers shown are from Japan to France rather than the other way around.

After a rambling Preface and an Introduction to Siege Of Paris balloon mail, having very little to do with the subject matter, the author arrives at detailed descriptions of the **three known** Siege letters addressed to and arriving in Japan. Of course, these letters traveled there mainly by ship. But desirable destinations being what they are to collectors and judges alike, this is as desirable an exotic destinations as there is, and it is fairly obvious that Mr. Matsumoto owns at least two of them!

All three covers bear the correct 80-centimes postage. Only the latest mailed, date stamped Paris, 25 October 1870, can be positively identified as having flown out of Paris (albeit not to Japan...) on the balloon *Le Vauban*. The other two (with 5 and 17 October Paris date stamps), for lack of French transit markings, cannot be assigned to any particular balloon. These three letters, and a very few others addressed to the French naval vessel *Coëtlogon*, which was serving in the China and Japan Seas, are given copiously detailed descriptions of probable itinerary and contents. The *Coëtlogon* covers bear 20-centimes in postage, the correct military concessionary rate of the day.

Some minor inaccuracies crop out on pages 14 and 16 regarding the balloons, which were inflated with municipal coal (illuminating) gas, and not with hydrogen. Also, positive identification of individual balloons requires a good deal **more than** the Paris date stamp of origin or (for entrusted mail) of posting from outside Paris. But, if this first chapter is not to be construed as a serious study of the *ballon monté* era, then no real harm is done by repeating the errors of earlier writers—even if this statement of mine conflicts with Ernst Cohn's well-known (at least to our readers) views regarding the repetition of false information.

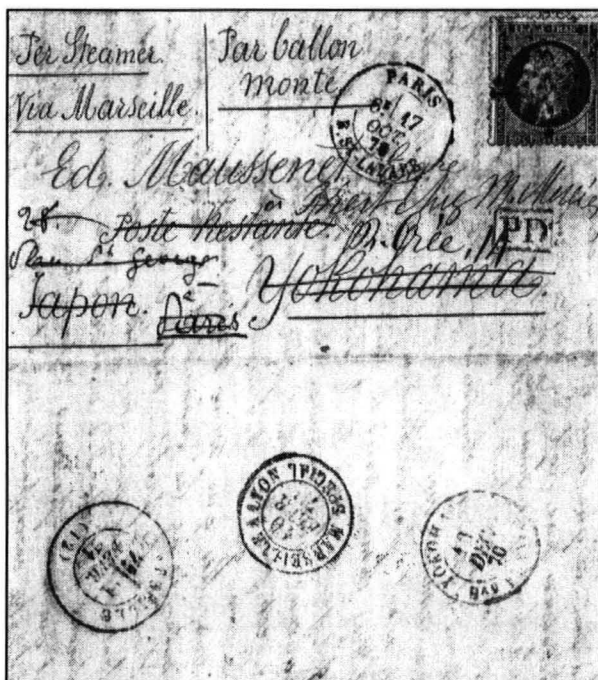


Figure 1. Paris, 17 October 1870 departure for Yokohama, arriving there 10 December and returned after the war [from the book]. (Reduced to 75%)

The balloon post is followed by three "interludes" covering the 1909-1919 or so period, the sole aerial connection of any sort between 1870 and the years between the World Wars. The only resultant mail was that of the post-Armistice French Aeronautical Mission, which transited by ship. Interludes are followed by "The Period before the Second World War," the first to have scheduled air service between the two countries (after 5 September 1924) and for which airmail surtaxes were introduced. Service went by way of the U.S. and by air only between San Francisco and New York. Mail was first carried 25 July 1925,

from Japan via Strasbourg to Paris, where it arrived only on 28 September--far more slowly than by surface means alone--at Le Bourget airfield; 429 pieces of mail were carried. This and other early flights with some sort of France-Japan connection are covered in great detail, though little is known about the mail carried, if any. This is a shame, for what airmail enthusiasts desire most are the numbers of letters carried and names of the pilots. Probably, the author could find no references to this sort of information.

More or less daily airmail service, via Germany and the Soviet Union, began 1 June 1927. Much of the early mail was philatelic in nature and between stamp dealers. [Which is better than having no surviving "commercial" mail!] Service was oftentimes curtailed by the Russian winter. This and following sections are useful for their Japanese rates. Few French airmails rates are shown, but they are available in some French-language works, which unfortunately are not given in the scanty Bibliography. Summer rates were much higher than winter ones, as the latter service incurred long delays in crossing Siberia, and in not being flown until reaching Manchuria (and, of course, vice-versa in the other direction). The first uniquely airmail Japanese stamps were issued 6 October 1929. (Regular stamps overprinted with a most improbable glider had been issued ten years earlier, for an experimental and delayed domestic run not mentioned by Matsumoto.) Most of the interesting text regarding this pioneering period has less to do with Franco-Japanese mail than with domestic and within Asia mail.

Beginning 15 December 1936, new rates appeared, according to whether the service was via Siberia, Singapore, French Indo-China (most expensive), Shanghai/Penang, or the U.S. (cheapest). Service continued to go by ship or train or both as well as, in part, by air. Early in World War II, service became limited, largely and then entirely via the U.S., that is until the attack upon Pearl Harbor.

During the U.S. occupation of Japan, APO mail was largely to the U.S. (30¢ rate), though a few covers to France are known. Non-APO mail service to foreign destinations began, on a limited basis and by sea 10 September 1946; airmail service was reestablished 28 August 1947. Rates both to and from France increased incrementally because of inflation in both countries. Air service with Europe was handled by Pan American and Northwest airlines along three routes, two via the U.S. and the third through Asia via Istanbul. Air France service from Tokyo began 19 February 1953 and, from Paris on 24 November; neither went nonstop at first. Japan Airlines flew to France only from June 1961. DC-4s made way for Constellations, DC-8s, 708s, 880s, and finally(?) 747s. One Concorde flew to Japan in 1972 for demonstration purposes but apparently carried no mail. Direct Tokyo-Paris flights began 5 April 1986.

A nice detailed Chronology of aviation events, with emphasis upon those in France and in Japan, to 1993, follows the text. Next come a good Index and a single-page Bibliography of works in French and English, very up-to-date (2000!) but hardly exhaustive. Three color plates up front include one of the Siege of Paris *ballon monté* addressed to Japan, among other interesting covers. All other illustrations are in black-and-white and very clear but, for the price of the book, more use of color for at least the interspersed illustrations of recent and modern postage stamps depicting planes, personages, etc., from Icarus to the Concorde, would have made the book more pleasing to the eye.

In spite of its faults and failings, not the least of which is its leisurely pace (i.e., excessive padding), this work is highly recommended to an (unfortunately limited) audience of rather specialized airmail collectors. Just about every cover illustrated comes with a textual analysis of its postage and itinerary, which can be of great help in deciphering one's own covers of similar time-frames. Routes and (Japanese) rates are described in detail, in accordance

with the frequent changes incurred before and especially after World War II. I would have preferred to see the rates shown in tabular form, rather than being scattered throughout the text.

I noted very few typos: Pétin (for Pétain) on page 96, also Conveyor 880 (for Convair) on page 142. I presume the Japanese text to be letter-perfect. My review copy would not lie flat.

--S. J. Luft

Peter R. A. Kelly, *The Type Sage Issue of France 1876-1900: A study of the postmarks and postal history*; (2000); 138 pp., 8¼ x 11¼", card covers, spiral bound; numerous black-and-white illustrations; UK£15.00 or US\$22.50 (+ postage), from the author at Malmsy House, Church Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol, Avon BS8 3PG, England; Fax +0117-973-6296.

Our member in Bristol has assembled a 24-frame(!) exhibit of Sage covers and markings for his President's (of the Society of Postal Historians) display in April 2000, and accompanied this formidable showing with the handbook under review here.

As a collector and exhibitor of just one value (the 15-centimes) of this still underrated issue, I have a great appreciation for this handbook, and consider it the best survey of Sage-era markings and postal history in the English language. Here's what it covers:

- Frames 1-2: provincial date stamps and their evolution;
- Frame 3: date stamps of the Paris branch offices, plus Paris Caisse and Etranger, and newspaper cancels;
- Frame 4: Paris machine cancels (Daguins and predecessors), supplementary mail, Paris experimental handstamps;
- Frame 5: markings of secondary P.Os. (dotted outer circle) and auxiliary bureaux (hexagons);
- Frames 6-7: rural and urban boxes, urban carrier markings, mobile boxes, maritime mail and packet lines;
- Frame 8: free-franked mail of the period (unstamped unless sent abroad) and its verification;
- Frames 9-10: railway mail (ambulants, conveyeurs, stations, entrepôts, transfer offices);
- Frame 11: unpaid and partly paid and tax markings;
- Frame 12: problematic mail (unable to deliver, refused, dead-letters, return-to-sender, unclaimed, damaged);
- Frames 13-16: domestic postal rates of the period [with useful tables]; mixed Cérès-Sage franking; wrappers, electoral mail, invoices, samples, newspapers and journals; insurance and registration;
- Frames 17-21: foreign rates, including cross-border mail, colonial and military mail, pre- and post-UPU maritime mail, and some nice destinations;
- Frames 22-23: Offices Abroad (including a very handy full-page table);
- Frame 24: a catchall of miscellaneous subjects: telegrams, pneumatic-tube mail, and telephone tickets.

Brief historical backgrounds for the markings and services are given. Practically every aspect of Sage markings and postal history is covered or at least touched upon. (I won't mention what I have but which doesn't appear here...) Although there is, perforce, basically minimal depth to this survey-type work, it is nevertheless just what is needed to get a collector started or to explain some of the whats and whys. It's simple to read and easy to follow. Illustrations are generally adequate; apparently to conserve space and bulk, most covers are reduced to ½ or so of actual size, and I would have preferred no reduction at all except for oversize pieces.

Highly recommended to the incipient and intermediate collector of used and/or on-cover Sages. A very thorough two-page bibliography concludes the presentation.

-- S. J. Luft

Catalogue de l'Exposition des 100 Timbres et Documents Philatéliques parmi les plus rares du monde [Catalogue of the Exhibition of 100 Stamps and Philatelic Documents Among the Rarest of the World], Anon., Monaco 2000, 184 pp., 8½x12", all color illus. (with English and French commentaries), hardbound, gold imprinted green velvet cover, French Francs 250 (+ 70 postage and handling, VISA, Master, Am. Express or Eurocard), from Club de Monte-Carlo, c/o Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies, 11 Terrasses de Fontvieille, 98000 MONACO.

For the third time, Monaco has hosted an exhibition of invited philatelic rarities in its Museum of Stamps and Coins - "Museum of Wonders," according to a news release. The show, at the start of December 2000, occasioned the release of a third catalogue featuring singular exhibits in color, with owners' French explanations underneath and a section of English descriptions in back. Whereas the second show featured only covers and documents, the third one reverted to a mixture of stamps (including proofs and essays) and covers.

After some introductory text, the order of presentation is one item each belonging to the Prince of Monaco and Queen Elizabeth II; to sixteen organizations, mostly postal museums, in alphabetic order of their countries' names in French (Vatican counts as a stamp-issuing entity), with the United Nations and the Olympic Museum, both in Switzerland, bringing up the rear; followed by material belonging to 96 members of the Club of Monaco in alphabetic order of last names.

In a quick survey, which makes no claim to precision, I counted just over 90 ordinary members' exhibits at each of the three shows, with about 30 names differing between the 1997 and 1999 catalogues. Thus, with the number of ordinary members limited to 100, the turnover was considerable, at least at the beginning of the club's existence. That should be good news for those on a waiting list for admission.

The extraordinary material, from all over the globe, as usual, ranges from old newspapers through a post-office notice to propaganda matter and old as well as modern philatelic souvenirs, of which one or at most a few are known. I have arbitrarily picked two of them, both about postal history, that caught my interest.

The first of these is a cover from Arlon, Belgium, to besieged Paris during the 1870/1871 Franco-German War. It carries a common 30-centimes Belgian stamp and an Arlon cds of 30 December 1870. The next day it was on a train to Erquelines and, somewhere on its way, it acquired a French small, framed PD, showing postage was paid to destination. The address is Monsieur Klipffel, examiner for admission to the school of St. Cyr, Hôtel Corneille, Paris *Par Moulins Allier*. Along the top and upper left side of the cover are five 20-centimes stamps of France, all canceled with the French numeral cancel 2565 in the usual rhombus. That last line of the address and the 1-franc French postage show that the letter was intended for the first underwater mail route, i.e., for one of the hollow zinc balls, stuffed with letters at Moulins-sur-Allier and thrown into the Seine upstream of Paris. None ever got to Paris during the war. But how to account for the franking and its cancel? The writer must have gotten the French stamps somehow, perhaps by picking them up in France. They were untouched by the Belgians, but the numeral 2565 was used at Moulins, of course!

One of the interesting facts about the Moulins mail is that the Government Delegation specified the postage simply as being '1 franc,' forgetting that announcement of this mail would be made abroad as well, and how foreigners might pay that postage from abroad. One Swiss writer simply used a Swiss 1-franc stamp, which was accepted. The Monaco cover indicates that the Belgian had a method of getting French stamps. Mail from Britain is

known to have been sent via U.S. and French diplomatic means to consulates in France where it was franked. I owned one cover sent under cover to people in Switzerland who forwarded it, again under cover, to people in France who franked it. Thus, despite the oversight in the announcement by the French post office, foreigners found ways and means of using the world's first subfluvial mail.

The second cover, also small, is addressed to Colonel Paravcini(?) at St. Elisabeth's, Here; postmarked with a red cds Basel/Vor-Mittag/19 FEVR 52 (mixed German and French!); and franked with two Basel 'doves.' The exhibitor was apparently told that St. Elisabeth's was a town near another town called 'Here.' Actually, St. E's was some sort of institution at Basel, perhaps a hospital or a home for old soldiers.

But the peculiarity that struck me was why a single-weight, local letter should be franked with *two* Basel stamps (one of which is badly cut into), said by the exhibitor to be of two different printings. Inquiries in Switzerland revealed that the postal history of these Swiss locals is still in the process of being discovered. Double postage may, indeed, have existed for a single-weight, local letter, though this is not yet certain for Basel. It might, e.g., have paid for the difference between delivery on foot or by a mounted postman. The two printings of the Basel 'dove' are said to be distinguishable by their light and dark colors, but for that one would have to see the original and compare the stamps with known ones from each printing.

Paper, printing, and binding are excellent as usual. Minor errors in the text appear to be quite few, such as wrong month in French (p. 45) and wrong year in English (p. 142) for the very same item, evidently printer's errors and easily corrected.

The catalogue is highly recommended to everyone fascinated with exceptional philately from all over. Like the illustrations in its predecessors, the new ones are of great interest and worth studying (apart from recurring hyperbole), not just to admire items but also to follow up on whatever questions certain pieces may raise in the viewer's mind. The more unusual the cover - and it is usually covers that raise questions - the more likely it is to lead the inquisitive student into uncharted territory that few cataloguers and collectors ever entered. Charting such trackless wastelands of philately can be even more fun than chasing after rarities.

-- Ernst M. Cohn

"Cérès 2000-2001 Catalogue Timbres-poste France; over 500 pages illustrated in color, card cover, 109 Fr (+ postage), from usual sources or direct from Cérès Philatélie, 23 rue du Louvre, F-75001 Paris [one can order in English and pay by VISA].

This is a very well organized catalogue divided into two major divisions: a Classics section (to 1900) with 80 pages and more than 400 illustrations, and a Modern section (1900-on) of 424-pages covering 42 categories of stamps.

The Classics section provides information not only on regular postage stamps but also on those for newspapers, posters, telegraph, telephone, specimens, essays and German occupation. Cancellations are shown by type and color for every stamp. Values are provided for covers, including uncommon destinations, Nice and Savoy, offices in Algeria and abroad (including the most recent facility which operated in Jerusalem in 1948). Numeral cancellations of Algeria and foreign offices are listed for both the small and the large numerals. Coverage of--ballons montés, Paris Commune, Boules de Moulins, "papillons" of Metz, and the U.S. postal station at the 1900 Paris Exposition--is uniformly excellent.

The Modern section is organized along a more traditional style, and with many new improvements and innovations. The inside front cover is a conversion table for Francs and Euros. There are many lists and tables up front to

aid the collector in finding stamps by theme, topic, or name of series. Fourteen pages of regular issues, starting in 1967 with the République of Cheffer, show when they were issued and summarize the various series; summaries are well designed and very clear; they list stamps by printing method, type of gum if necessary, imprinted numbers on back of coils, number of phosphor bands, and any other applicable characteristics to enable the collector to catalog his stamps. An innovation is that, instead of having the page number in corners of pages, the catalogue number is shown instead and starting with 1935 the year is also added.

There are far too many subsections (airmail, postage due, military, etc.) to cover here, so I will note only those that particularly whetted my interest. Parcel Post, including the special service for Paris, opens up many new doors to the collector who wants to get away from current issues. Coil Stamps and Booklets are must readings for any collector of these issues; I enjoyed the coils subsection as it explained and showed full sheets printed specifically for coils. Under Airmails, I learned that five stamps were issued for the battleship "Richelieu" during World War II; the 1984 set has two major numbers for the 15F, 20F and 30F stamps; the 1987 50F stamp has just one major number. Has Scott caught on to this (I haven't seen their latest catalogs)? It would be interesting to know if Scott is listing both of the 50F airmails issued in February 2000 and showing the Couzinet 70 aircraft--one perforated 13x12½ and the other 13x13¼.

I had been told for many years that collectors in France do not collect hinged stamps. But they must as the Modern section lists never hinged and hinged through 1959. Stamps on cover are also listed through 1959. Whenever known, quantities of stamps printed are shown. First Day covers are priced and the correct first-day city is named. Mustn't forget to mention imperforates, deluxe sheetlets, and special printings. For Precancel collectors there's a special eight-page subsection in the Modern section and another page in the Classics section. For the many collectors of stamps related to World War II, two pages are devoted to these issues, including the Italian ones for use at the naval base at Bordeaux, plus nine full pages to the Liberation stamps (both authorized and non-authorized).

All that seems to be missing would be a section on postal stationery. And, if you collect French Colonies, the new catalogue should be out by now, its appearance having been delayed because of many major new revisions.

Paper quality, printing, and the color illustrations are all excellent. I spent several evenings leafing through this catalogue, finding several new areas of interest as well as much enjoyment in learning about the many types of stamps required for specific postal purposes. This is a wonderful catalogue, full of pleasant surprises (for this neophyte collector) on almost every page.

--Raymond McGarrity

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from #263, January 2001, p. 29)

- **803.)** History needs to be retold every once in a while. Siege of Paris balloon "Armée de Bretagne" had been determined has having departed Paris on 7 December 1870, carrying up to 400 kg of mail. Then our own Ernst Cohn, making use of the contemporaneous Paris press, reported in 1991 the date as being 5 (not 7) December, thus putting earlier accounts in doubt (including his own Appendix 2 of his 1975 *The Flight of the Ville d'Orléans*). Cohn was later (1994) supported by Maurice Gauzit.

Now Michèle Chauvet, writing in *Documents Philatéliques* N° 166 (2000), after having made an exacting study in the Archives at Fontainebleau of official telegrams of the period, placing them in numerical (chronological) order has, without any doubt, placed the launching of the "Armée de Bretagne" at 6 a.m. of 5 December, thus proving Cohn and Gauzit correct. In addition, the "Franklin" departed Paris at 1 a.m. with the backlog of outbound mail, making it likely that little or no mail was left for the "Armée de Bretagne" to carry.

- **804.)** During the 1930s and apparently earlier, official mail between naval vessels in the same port was sometimes endorsed (only manuscript markings known) "Correspondance de rade" [harbor mail], and did not have to enter the mail stream for its delivery. Such mail, if of an unofficial nature, was supposed to bear stamps or else be taxed. This type of "hand carried" mail may bear the date stamps of both ships involved and therefore is sought after as well as very scarce. [Adapted from article by J. J. Rosso, in *La Marcophilie Navale* Bull. 56 (2000).]

- **805.)** Various forms of the cachet COURRIER DES MARINS/SEAMEN'S MAIL exist, Figure 1 among the fancier ones. Authorized by the International Labor Organization and the UPU in 1974, it is applied to mail posted at sea and bearing the correct international postage required by the ship's nationality. When brought to the nearest available land post office, the mail is supposed to be dispatched to the addressee, untaxed and with minimal further delays. Thus, its function is somewhat similar to its predecessor marking (often abused by tourists), PAQUEBOT. [From *La Marcophilie Navale* Bull. 56 (2000).]

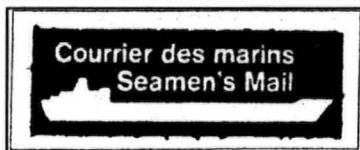


Figure 1.

- **806.)** Bob Kinsley provides an update to his article "The Elusive Scott #S1a" in the April 1998 *FCP* (N° 252) to the effect that such stamp is not only elusive, it is non-existent. The article reported that no major catalogue publisher could identify a provenance for the variety. Subsequently, the results of examination by Derek Richardson of the British F&C Society of a complete sheet of 100 of #S1, as published in the October 1999 issue of *Stamp Magazine* (Surrey, England), concluded that there "were no constant varieties" and that the listed variety was really due to "a temporary flaw due to some dirt adhering to one of the printing plates." Who will be the first to delete the listing?
- **807.)** Pascal Marziano (*Timbres Magazine*, October 2000) reports on a second type of ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON overprint on sheets of the red, permanent-value Marianne de Briat. The first type is on deeper red stamps printed on UV-luminescent paper; the overprint was applied by a flat-bed press, and is fine, shiny, and intense black; it was overprinted on RGR-1 press sheets dated 9 and 12 March and 26 May 1993, and issued in June 1993. The second type is on lighter red stamps on paper that is non-

reactive to UV light; the overprint was done by rotary press and is coarser and dull grayish black; it was printed on the same RGR-1 press on 13 November 1995; sheet interpanes bear "engine-turned" networks (Figure 2). The second printing was issued on the islands January 1996 but was not available from the postal agency in France. On the basis of days of printing and its absence from dealer stocks in France, the second type is easily the scarcer, and covers bearing this later type should be exceedingly scarce, though possibly available in dealer boxes for "pocket change."

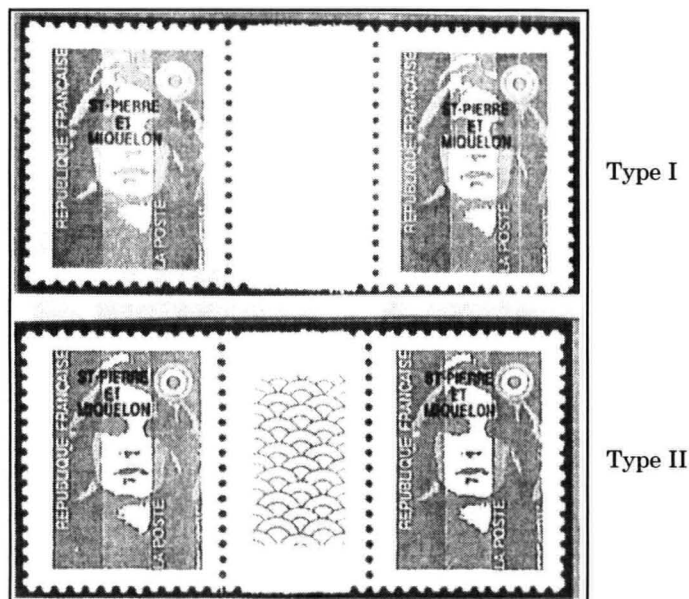


Figure 2.

- **808.)** According to a note in *Bulletin Col. Fra* N° 94 (2001), Arthur Maury, owner-publisher of *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-poste*, had written in N° 368 of 1 June 1911 that his correspondent in the Ivory Coast had sent him an "enraged" letter. It seems that the Ivory Coast administration had suspended commercial relations with France, resulting in a lack in the colony of low value (1c - 25c) stamps. The unhappy local commercial interests, seeking an end to this miserable state of affairs (which included sending unstamped mail that cost the recipient twice the unpaid postage), ordered stamps from Senegal. From mid-March 1911, Senegal stamps appeared with Ivory Coast date stamps. We have no knowledge as to when newly received Ivory Coast stamps replaced the Senegal ones, though it probably occurred by the middle of 1911. Whatever the case, Senegal stamps with Ivory Coast cancels should be very scarce; covers with Ivory Coast corner cards and 1911 Ivory Coast cancels on Senegal stamps even more so.
- **809.)** Thanks to philatelist-journalist Richard Rucklin, writing in *Marianne Bull.* N° 55 (2001), we've been made aware that yet another fake modern French definitive has appeared on the market. The item is purportedly a doubled impression or a re-entry of the 1986 green Liberté "A" stamp (Figure 3) which, to begin with, is hardly to be expected from a stamp printed on a modern (RGR) rotary press. Rucklin examined this pair with a biological microscope, and noted that the extra linework consisted of red, yellow and blue dots. His conclusion is that the original pair

was scanned and printed (presumably on an ink jet); then the pair was placed almost directly upon the scanned image, and printed once again. The result would be, if handled correctly and after some trial and error, a scanned image on top of the actual (line engraved) item. Incidentally, this pair was signed by a well-known expert.

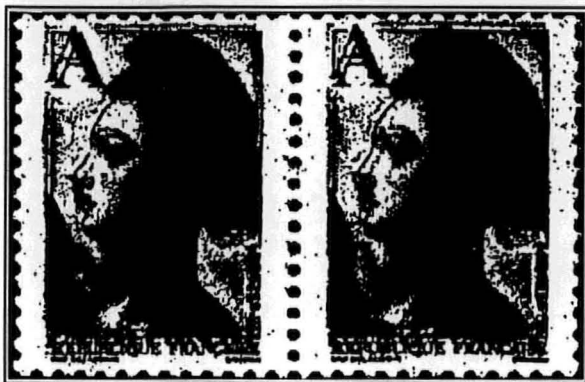


Figure 3.

MEMBERS' APPEALS

WANTED: Clear photocopies of covers from Madagascar and Reunion bearing B.M. (Boite Mobile) markings, for a study in progress. Also copies of any official documentation or general information on moveable [mail] boxes in these two colonies. All help will be appreciated and credited. Please write to Peter R.A. Kelly, Malmsy House, Church Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol BS8 3PG, England; Fax +0117-973-6296; e-mail <pra.kelly@malmsy.freemove.co.uk> (Mb. #3064).

WANTED: 19th Century albums published in France, in at least restorable condition (e.g., Lallier, Mahé, Moens, Y & T, Champion, etc.), for worldwide collections as well as exclusively for France, with or without stuck-down stamps. Send description and price to Harold M. Fagerquist, P.O. Box 935, Anderson, CA 96007. (Mb. #3227).

WANTED: French military mail covers showing legitimate postal usage of the officially issued Franchise Militaire (F.M.) stamps (Scott M1-M10). Also military franchise covers bearing cinderella F.M. labels or preprinted "stamps," including postal stationery items (postal cards, letter sheets). Please send photocopies and prices desired to John H. Bloor, 8727 East Kettle Place, Englewood, CO 80112-2710. Phone (720)-529-5942; fax (303)-771-7554; e-mail <bloorj@concentric.net> (Mb. #2880).

WANTED: Perfins, singles or on cover, especially France and Colonies, are wanted in any quantity. Will purchase or trade. Please write to Bob Szymanski, 10 Clarridge Circle, Milford, MA 01757; e-mail <perfins-man@mediaone.net> (Mb. #2169).

SELLING: Stamps of France and European countries from 25% of Scott Catalog. Also will trade. I need France Scott 136 and 236, MNH. Eugene Meyer, 3707 Sun Eagle Lane, Bradenton, FL 34210-4237. (Mb. #2911).

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 263, January 2001, p. 31)

France

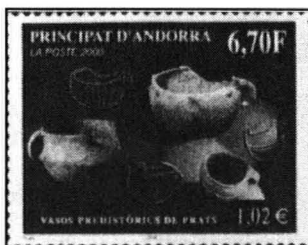
- 20 (22) January 2001: 3,00F/o,46 \square World Handball Championships;
- 27 (29) January: 3,00F/o,46 \square heart-shaped Valentine's Day 2001 [design by Christian Lacroix]; same in 15F sheetlet of five;
- 3 (5) February: 6,70F/1,02 \square Art of Pieter Bruegel the Elder;
- 24 (26) February: Stamp Day 2001: "Gaston Lagaffe" cartoon characters, 3,00F/o,46 \square , plus sheetlet of one 3,00F + 0,60F/o,55 \square , plus booklet of five at 3,00F/o, 46 \square , and three at 3,00F + 0,60F/o,55 \square .



Withdrawals: 10 November 2000: 3,00F St. Guilhem-le-Désert, 3,00F Gérardmer (Vosges), all Stamp Day 2000 ("Tintin"), the "Astérix" sheetlet. 12 January 2001: 3,80F Chopin, 6,70F Art of Botticelli, 6,70F Art of C. Claudel. 9 February: 3,00F (two stamps) Valentine Day design by Y. St. Laurent, and 30F booklet of same; 3,00F Ottmarsheim Abbey (Ht.-Rhin), 3,00F A. de St.-Exupéry, 3,00F Yellow Train of Cerdagne; 6,70F Art of A. Van Dyck.

Andorra

- 16 December 2000: 6,70F/1,02 \square Prehistoric pottery from Prats;
- 22 December: 15,50F/2,36 \square 25th Anniv. of National Archives;
- 22 January 2001: 30F/4,57 \square booklet of ten permanent-value stamps [arms of Commune of St.-Julias-de-Loria].



Withdrawals: December 2000(?): 15,50F Maison Rull (Sispony); 6,70F coffer with six locks.

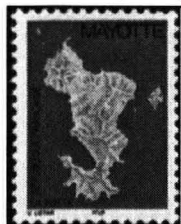
French Polynesia



- 28 December 2000: 85F Millennium;
- 16 January 2001: 100th Anniv. of Central School, two at 85F;
- 24 January: 120F Year of the Snake;
- 26 February: Polynesian Nature 35F, 50F, 90F.

Mayotte

- 25 November 2000: 2,70F/o,41 \square distillery at Ylang; 10F/1,52 \square new hospital;
- 2 January 2001: 2,70F/o,41 \square and 3,00F/o,46 \square map of Mayotte definitives; 3,00F/o, 46 \square breast-feeding campaign.



Monaco

- 20 November 2000: 7,00F/1,07 \square 5th Aquarium Congress [this may or may not be the same stamp, listed as a 5,00F value issued 2 October 2000, in N° 262, October 2000, p. 127].

Withdrawals: 29 December 2000: [1997 issue]: 9F Arboretum Marcel-Kroenlein; [1998 issues]: 2,70F Circus Festival, 10F Grimaldi

Seamounts, 25F Jubilee block; [1999 issues]: 2,70F Auditorium of the Congress, 2,70F Philexfrance, 3,00F MONACO 99, 3,00F Grimaldi Forum, 3,00F U.P.U., 3,00F Automobile Grand Prix, 3,00F Bourse of the Jubilee, 3,80F TV Festival, 4,00F Dog show, 4,00F Rainier III rose, 4,20F UNESCO, 4,40F Geneva Conventions, 4,40F ASCAT Grand Prix, 4,50F Bouquets competition, 4,50F Balzac, 4,50F Magic Stars, 4,60F Piano Masters, 4,90F Jubilee rose, 5,00F Oceanographic Museum, 5,20F Jumping, 5,20F Countess of Segur, 6,00F Rainier III rose, 6,50F Jubilee Bourse II, 6,70F Monaco aid and presence, 7F Philexfrance II, 10F Economic Jubilee, 10F Sportel, 11,50F Order of Malta, 12F MONACO 99 imperforate block, 14F ASM Anniv., 20F Rainier III block; 41F Realizations and Projects block.

New Caledonia

- > 25 October 2000: Eighth Festival of Pacific Arts sheetlet of four at 70F se-tenant; Museum of New Caledonia 90F and 150F;
- > 10 November: 100F French Red Cross; 110F Queen Hortense; Regional landscapes, three at 100F;
- > 15 November: Philately at school, three at 70F se-tenant;
- > 20 December: 100F Holy Year 2000; Greetings, one at 100F + two labels, and two at 100F (Cagou birds caricatures).



St. Pierre & Miquelon

- > 15 November 2000: 3,00F/o,46[□] Noël 2000;
- > 6 (11) December: 20th Century events sheetlet of ten stamps at 2,00F/o,30[□];
- > 13 (18) December: 5,00F/o,76[□] Buzzard;
- > 27 December (2 January 2001): 3,00F/o,46[□] Year 2001 (flowers);
- > 24 January 2001: Cetaceans: 3,00F/o,46[□] Orca and 5,70F/o,87[□] Pilot Whale.

Wallis & Futuna

- > 23 October 2000: 330F Eighth Festival of Pacific Arts;
- > 9 November: Fish, three at 115F se-tenant
- > 13 November: 380F Canonization of St. Campagnat;
- > 1 December: 205F Talietumo archaeological site;
- > 26 December: 225F The Nativity, "Wallis style."



F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A little study of the Treasurer's Report for 2000, which appears in this issues, will show why it was essential to raise dues for 2001, and why an additional increase may be necessary in the near future. To understand some of the quirks in the Treasurer's Report, one must recognize that the Quicken™ computer program is not really designed to handle the bookkeeping for a Society such as ours. Frankly, there are some other quirks in our accounting, that I have never understood, particularly regarding the allocation of dues income between the current and future years.

Perhaps the most revealing line in our Treasurer's Report is the next-to-the-last, mysteriously labelled "EQUITY," but which I would describe as the current balance in the General Operating Fund. If one compares this number with the same one for 1999, we find that it dropped from +\$1955 to -\$140; i.e.: the Society operated at a loss of \$2095 in the year 2000. This was the second consecutive year with such a loss, and means we wiped out the surpluses accumulated over preceding years. Realistically, the recent dues increase will not raise much more than \$2000; less, if it brings a significant loss in membership. The large balance in the Vaurie Fund provides a cushion, so that an occasional small deficit in the Operating Fund is not a disaster. However, if the "Equity" continues to be negative at the end of this year, the Board will be forced to again increase dues.

Another quick look at the Treasurer's Report will show that the Society has one major source of income: Membership Dues. If the Society wishes to spend more money, as for improvements in the *France & Colonies Philatelist*, or even just to keep up with rising costs, it must increase its income. To increase its income, it must increase the total Membership dues. There are two ways to do this: to increase each member's dues, or to increase the number of members. Certainly the latter is the more desirable. Therefore, this brings me to my annual pitch: Please urge anyone who collects stamps or postal history of the French area, or actually anyone, whether or not he is such a collector, to join the *France & Colonies Philately Society*. Our Society members should be our best recruiters.

Every fall, I receive a request from the publishers of the Scott Catalog for suggestions for changes or corrections in their listings for the French area. At that point I am always left wondering what can possibly be done, since the deadlines for submitting such changes are mostly closer than the *Philatelist's* publication dates. This year, I am making this appeal now, so that there will be more time before Scott Publishing's deadlines: if anyone has constructive suggestions for improvements in the French-area listings in the Scott Catalog, please send them to me as promptly as possible. I should be able to obtain copies of the current catalog listings, if you need them for this purpose.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer,

RMS

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2000

Total Membership as of January 1, 2000:	586
Total New Members for the Year of 2000:	27
Total Reinstatements for the Year 2000:	4
	31
Resignations Received for the Year 2000:	7
Total Deceased Members for the Year 2000:	1
Members Dropped for Non Payment of Dues, 2000:	38
Members Undeliverable as Addressed, 2000:	1
	47
Net Membership Gain for the Year of 2000:	0
Net Membership Loss of the Year of 2000:	16
Total Membership as of December 31, 2000:	570

TREASURER'S REPORT

FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC CASH FLOW.

1/1/00 THROUGH 12/31/00

INFLOWS

Dues-Income:	
2000	5,747.00
TOTAL Dues-Income	5,747.00
Int. Inc.	692.49
Publications	
Back Issues	18.00
Bordeaux	70.00
Commune	32.00
Depts Conquis	10.00
Gabon-Congo	20.00
General Issues	14.00
Glossary	30.00
Index	45.00
Ink Color	9.00
Lozenges.....	21.00
Luft III	15.00
Railway Mails	10.00

TOTAL Publications	294.00
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TOTAL INFLOWS	6,733.49
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OUTFLOWS

Exhibitions	100.00
Linn's Ad	320.00
Meetings	88.90

Philatelist:

Editor	467.03
Labels	243.92
Magazine.....	6,541.60

TOTAL Philatelist	7,252.55
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Secretary:

Corresponding	397.16
Recording	219.23

TOTAL Secretary	616.39
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TOTAL OUTFLOWS	8,377.84
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OVERALL TOTAL	-1,644.35
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ASSETS (As of 12/31/00)**Cash and Bank Accounts**

F&C Saving	20,339.86
F&C Cash	0.00
F&C Checking	5,804.14

TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	26,144.00
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TOTAL ASSETS	26,144.00
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY**LIABILITIES****Other Liabilities**

Prepaid Dues	6,433.00
Spiegel Fund	1,212.29
Vaurie Fund	18,639.23

TOTAL Other Liabilities	26,284.52
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TOTAL LIABILITIES	26,284.52
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EQUITY

.....	-140.52
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	26,144.00
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Respectfully submitted, William W. Wallis, Treasurer

February 22, 2001

NEW MEMBERS

- 3242 FERBER, LEROY, P.O. Box 210, West Berlin, NJ 08091-0210. (Postal History: Stampless Covers. Specialized Issues: Stationery - Revenues - Proofs And Color Trials. Philatelic Literature. Exchange. Stamped And Embossed Revenues Paper From 1600s. Literature In English.)
- 3243 HOGARTH, DAVID JAMES, 14 Graystone Road, Invergowrie, Dundee DD2 5JQ, United Kingdom. (General Collector: All Issues. France: World War II. World War II Internment Camps. General France: Used & On Cover. Military Posts. Modern France: Used - On Cover - Air Mails. Air Meets, First Flights, etc.)
- 3244 LOMONACO, MARK, P.O. Box 11222, Lancaster, PA 17601-1222. (Modern France: Mint - Used - On Cover.)

REINSTATEMENTS

- 1318 DEVASHER, WILLIAM A., JR., 49 Sheridan Rd., Wellesley, MA 02481. (French Africa, Pre-Independence. Possibility Mayotte In The Future.)
- 1046 AGRELL, NILS, 73 Roxbury Rd., Garden City, NY 11530-2621. (Specialized France: Marques Postales - Used Abroad. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876. French Community: Offices Abroad. All Colonies And Territories. Indo China. Free French Used In A.E.F. Cameroun.)
- 3151 TIERNEY, GERALD W., 315 East 72nd Street, New York, New York 10021. (This Is A New Address.) (Already in *Philatelist*.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 872 SMITHEN, DR. A.H., 1286 Glen Douglas Drive, Sarnia, Ontario N7V 3N7, Canada.
- 1262 LADUKE, HARTLEY J., 1690 Hallowell Rd., Litchfield, ME 04350-3117.
- 2910 KLUHERZ, MICHAEL K., 24 South Flora Way, Golden, CO 80401-5330.
- 2012 ELLMAN, LEWIS, 183 West Lake Shore Drive, Carmel, NY 10512.
- 1906 SCHNEIDER, ALBERT, 1 rue Favant, F-75002 Paris, France.
- 3227 FAGERQUIST, H.M., Post Office Box 935, Anderson, CA 96007.
- 3149 BREWER, WILLIAM E., 7035 Pentz Road - #8, Paradise, CA 95969.
- 2891 FISHER, ROGER K., 1456 Crestwood Drive, Joplin, MO 64801.
- 2975 FREGA, ENRIQUE, Av. de Mayo 982 1 "A," 1084 Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 3117 DELESPESE, THIERRY F., Post Office Box 662, Fenton, MO 63026.
- 978 PETERS, DONALD J., P.O. Box 512481, Punta Gorda, FL 35951-2481.

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2877 ADAMS, BILLY M. | 2881 BRYANT, J. B. |
| 1770 JERSEY, STANLEY C. | 3202 RAINVILLE, JOSEPH W. |
| 1424 WADE, LEE | |

DROPPED FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3200 ANGLEVIEL, FREDERIC | 2657 KNEE, STEVEN T. |
| 3023 GAETJENS, GREGOR | 3173 LEVIN, ERLING G. |
| 2949 LAMPEN, PETER C. | 2967 MAUGHMER, FREDERIC H. |
| 2060 THEURER, JACK | 1492 PETERS, DR. WILLIAM |
| 2529 BEAUPRE, ROGER D. | 3195 POTCHIE, LEVERN E. |
| 3032 BURGESS, CLINT | 1841 DRYE, HERVE |
| 3225 CAIN, BILLY | 41 GIRARD, DANIEL |
| 2615 DAHLEN, CHRISTIAN A. | 1513 MOREHOUSE, DOUGLAS A. |
| 1207 DICKSON, EVELYN | 1070 WEIN, NATHAN |
| 2119 EDISON, ROBERT B. | 2695 BELT, EUGENE H. |
| 3125 EGGLETON, DR. ROGER B. | 2662 RAOUST, MAURICE P. |
| 1998 EVERMON, DONALD W. | 3147 RILEY, ROBERT |
| 3082 FETZER, GARY | 2912 ROTTMAN, MILTON |
| 2373 GARNSEY, THOMAS | 2961 ROWE, PETER |
| 2153 HEIDERMAN, RICHARD H. | 1716 SLIFER, WILLIAM P. |
| 2927 KERZEL, KARL J. | 2759 STEINER, WILLIAM E. |
| 3166 KLEJMENT, ANNE M. | 3172 UNGER, MORT |