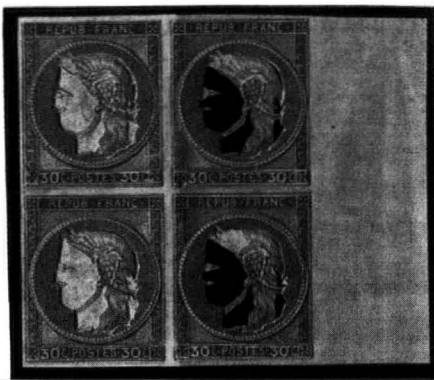
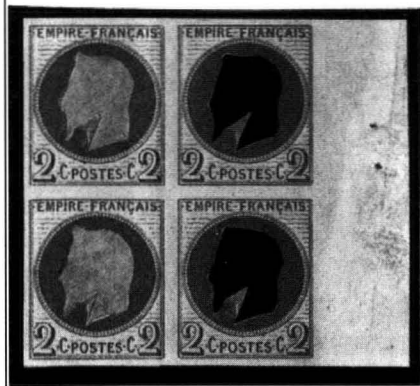
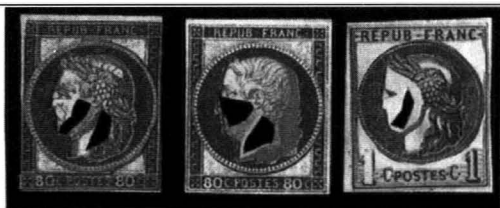




# France & Colonies Philatelist

Vermeil Medals at SESCAL 2000 and COLOPEX 2002  
 Silver Medal at 6th Canadian National Philatelic Exhibition (2002)



*Examples of mise en train stamps: proof or waste stamps from complete sheets, with cut outs. During the Classic Period, a mise en train sheet was placed between the blank sheet to be printed and the underlying mat. The purpose of the cut outs was to accentuate or soft-pedal details on the printed stamps, through increasing or decreasing the pressure applied to individual portions of the stamp impression, at the moment of printing.*

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**ALGERIAN REGISTERED MAIL 1844-1876****by Kenneth R. Nilsestuen (FCPS #1990)**

Registered mail service, either as "*recommandation*" or "*chargements*," has been available in France since as early as 1627<sup>1</sup>. However, until the French invasion of Africa in 1830, mail service in the future country of Algeria was unofficial and haphazard. Although the French immediately began postal service when they invaded in 1830, that service was military and did not at first include special services such as registered mail.

The French had several types of service that we would consider registered. Beginning in 1829 *recommandation* was differentiated as a service that tracked the letter through the postal system much as our current registered mail. There was no indemnity for contents, nor could one request a return receipt as proof of delivery. In contrast, the *chargements* system was registration of letters with a declared value. As described in more detail below, it was in 1873 that the postal service finally renamed the service "*chargements de valeurs déclarées*."

It was only in 1844, several years after civilian mail service had supplanted military mail, that the postal service extended *recommandation* to Algeria. *Recommandation* had been allowed only to Paris from March 1829, so the service had been quite limited. By an order dated 21 July 1844, *recommandation* was extended to all first class offices with an effective date of 1 September 1844<sup>2</sup>. Because Algeria was now administered as part of the Metropole, the order included Algerian post offices as well. Rates were the same as for regular mail because there was no indemnification in the event of loss. Prepayment was allowed but not required<sup>3</sup>.

As part of the same order the postal service also expanded *chargements* service to Algeria and the Metropole. August 1844 regulations established the rules for postal markings on *chargements* mail, including the "CHARGÉ" marking. Unfortunately, I do not have a piece from this period, nor have I seen one in any of the auction catalogs to which I subscribe.

With the advent of postage stamps in 1849, the rates for *recommandation* and *chargements* were also changed. Of course, letter rates were now based only on weight, not distance. Effective with other changes on January 1 that year, prepayment for *recommandation* and *chargées* became mandatory. The new rates required double postage for the extra service. Eighteen months later, the two services were again distinguished by a change in the *recommandation* rate. The fee was adjusted to an additional 25 centimes instead of double postage, and prepayment again became optional. The rules and rates for *chargements* remained as they were in 1849.

Figure 1 is an early *recommandation* envelope addressed to an artillery captain on a mission to Emir Abd-el-Kader. The letter originated in Oran, June 25, 1851, and bears the required markings: a boxed "R" to indicate *recommandation* service, Oran's CDS, and manuscript "No. 149" to indicate the envelope's registry number. Because the letter was not prepaid, it was rated 75 centimes in magenta and the boxed "R" is in the reglementary black. The rate reflected 50 centimes for postage (confirmed by a manuscript "14 g" on the reverse, placing it in the second weight class) plus 25 centimes for the *recommandation* fee. Had the letter been prepaid, it would have had the normal boxed "PP" added and the "R" would have been in red.

The next change to these services was effective on July 1, 1854. At this time the postal service assimilated *recommandation* service into *changement*. The *changement* fee was set at 20 centimes and prepayment was again mandatory.

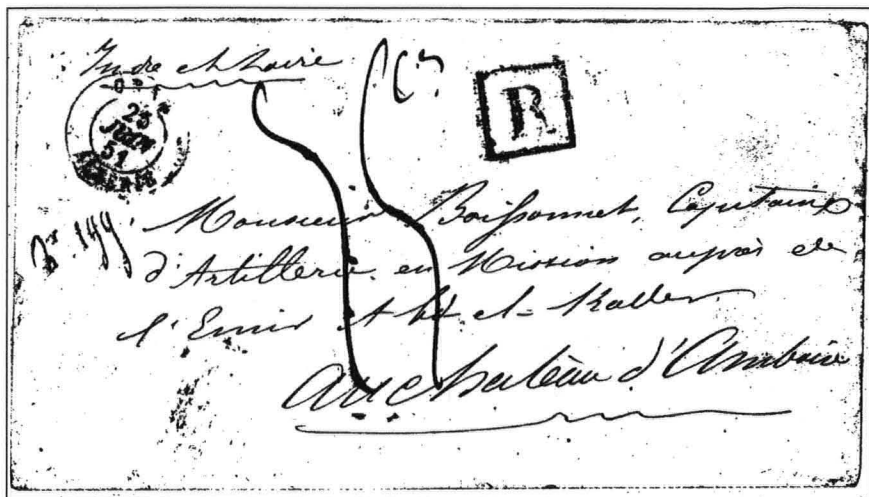


Figure 1. (reduced to 80%)

Figure 2 is a July 10, 1863 *chargement* envelope from Blidah, Algeria, to Paris. A weak red "CHARGE" mark is to the left of the stamps. This "*chargé*"

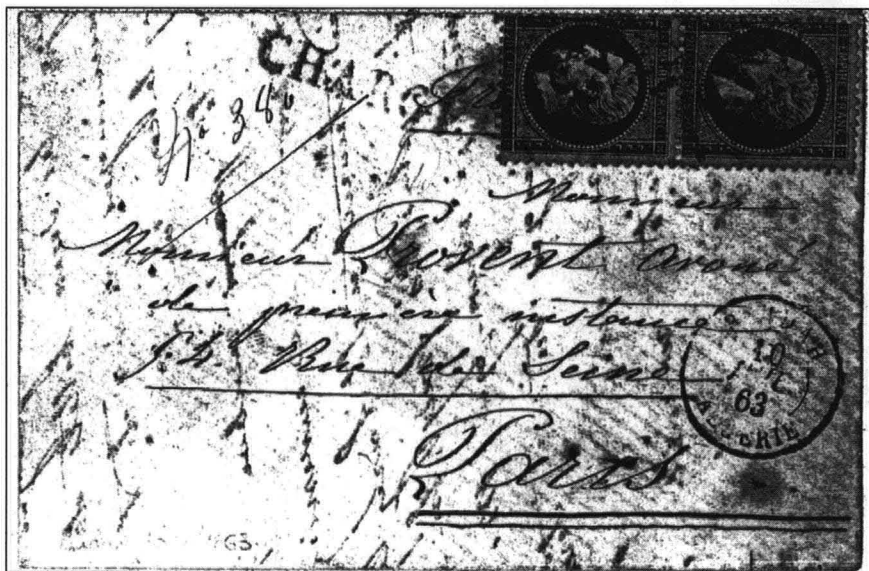


Figure 2.

service marking or similar marks had been in use since 1791. The stamps paid the normal letter rate and the 20-centimes *chargement* fee. On the reverse is a *cachet descriptif*, a rectangular marking with the large numeral 5013 of Blidah at the left, the weight in grams, and other pertinent information. See Figure 3 and 3a for examples (1867 and 1875) of *cachet descriptifs* applied to *chargements* and declared-value envelopes from 1859 forward. In



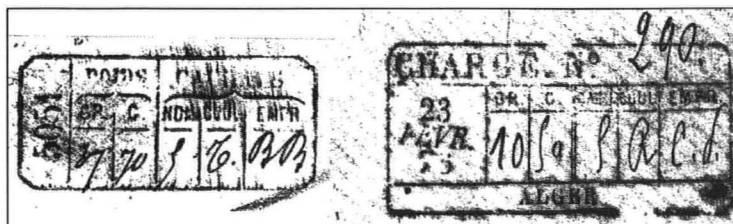


Figure 3.

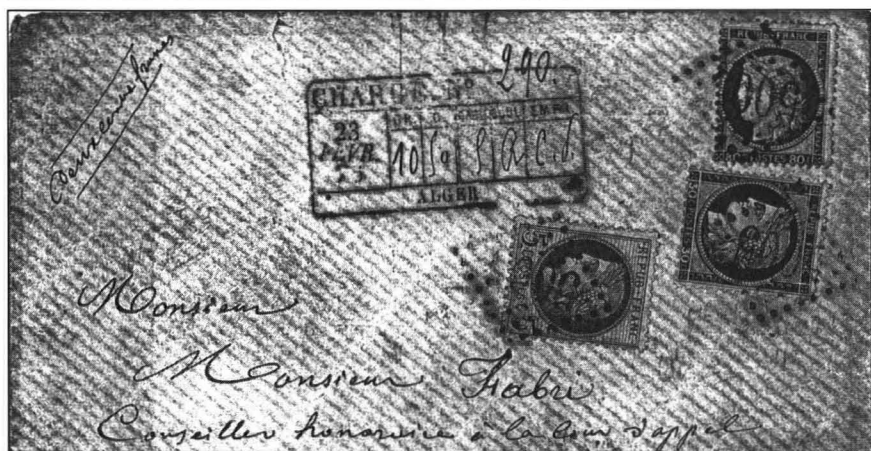


Figure 3a. (crop at bottom and reduced to 80%)

addition to the Blidah large numeral, its marking includes the weight, value, color and type of postmarks and the employee's initials. The later version used in Algiers has similar information plus the *chargé* number and date.

In June 1858 the postal service established a special *changement* rate for summons letters sent by bankruptcy courts<sup>4</sup> to creditors. In addition to the normal letter rate the fixed *changement* rate was 20 centimes. Figure 4 is a local letter, mailed January 12, 1858 in Constantine. The local letter rate was 10 centimes. On the reverse is the handstamp of the tribunal.

Effective July 6, 1859, the postal service created a *valeurs déclarées* service. Declared-value letters could only originate in *recettes*, (Principal post offices) but could be addressed to *distribution* (secondary) post offices. The law established special weight classes with cutoffs at 10 grams, 20 grams and 100 grams<sup>5</sup>, a fixed fee of 20 centimes, and a proportional fee of 10 centimes per 100 francs of value. For the first time, senders could request a notice of receipt (*avis de réception*) for an additional 10 centimes.

Figure 5 is an October 15, 1867 envelope that originated in Oran and went to Sassenage, France. The declared value is at the top, 450 francs. Stamps from both the 1862 and 1867 Empire issues pay 1 franc postage. By my calculation, the letter weighed more than 10 grams so the base rate was 40 centimes. The fixed fee was another 20 centimes, leaving 40 centimes for the proportional fee. This would have covered only 400 francs of the total declared value of 450 francs, but postal clerks have been known to make errors.

On September 1, 1871, the *changement* and fixed portion of declared-value letters rose to 50 centimes. The proportional rate doubled to 20 centimes per 100 francs of declared value. Figure 6 is another bankruptcy-court notice

mailed January 25, 1872 to a local address in Tlemcen. The local letter rate was now 15 centimes, so the total postage was paid by two 30 centimes Bordeaux stamps and an Empire five centimes. The special rate for bankruptcy courts was no longer in effect. Figure 7 is a declared-value letter of



Figure 4. (reduced to 86%)



Figure 5. (reduced to 78%)

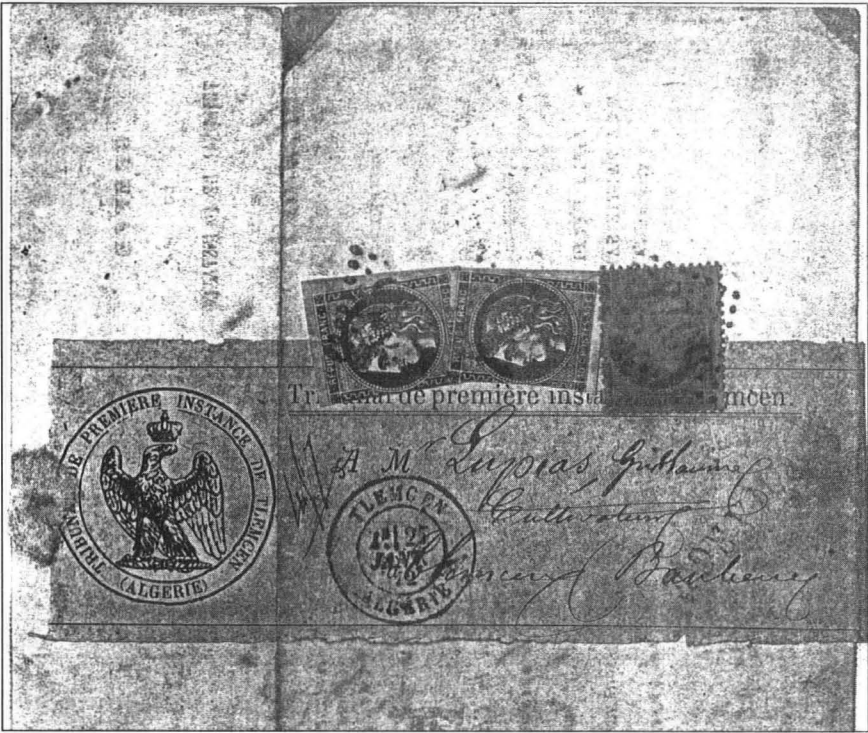


Figure 6. (crop at bottom and reduced to 82%)



Figure 7.

February 6, 1872 with an 80 centimes privately rouletted Bordeaux stamp and a 15 centimes Cérès paying the 25 centimes letter rate, 50 centimes *changement* fee, and 20 centimes for the declared value of 50 francs.

In February 1873 the postal service reintroduced *recommandation* service at 50 centimes for letters and 25 centimes for postal cards and other items. Declared-value rates for letters remained at the 1871 rates, but there were new rates for boxes sent through the mail. I have seen no examples of *recommandation* service from Algeria between February 1873 and March 1876 (when my collection stops), but declared-value mail continued to be popular. I have seen several letters in addition to the ones in my collection from this time period with a variety of stamps to pay the rates. While not common, letters from this time (1873-1876) are more common than those from earlier times.

The 1873 rate change was the last during the classical period. The next overhaul was in May 1878 when the postal service revamped most of its rates to conform to UPU recommendations.

### Endnotes

1. I relied on R.G. Stone's "Articles d'Argent, Chargements, Recommandation, Valeurs, and Mandats," *F&C Philatelist*, Whole No. 180 (April 1980), pp. 49-52, for many of these explanations. Coincidentally, this was the issue in which my misspelled name appeared as a new member.

2. Information on rates is from Alexandre, Barbey, Brun, Desarnaud and Joany, *Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Brun & Fils, 1989.

3. This was still the pre-stamp period when rates were dependent on distance as well as weight, and the *décime rurale* and *voie de mer* were still in force.

4. "Greffiers des tribunaux de première instance."

5. Normal letter weight cutoff points were 7- $\frac{1}{2}$ , 15 and 100 grams.

### France & Colonies Philatelic Society Regional Meeting at ARIPEX 2004 (Mesa, Arizona, February 20-22, 2004) – Preliminary Announcement

Our Society will again hold one of its occasional regional meetings at a major show, this time at ARIPEX 2004 in Mesa, Arizona, a suburb of Phoenix. The show venue will be the Mesa Centennial Center, which adjoins the show hotel, the Mesa Sheraton.

The ARIPEX show committee has obtained the services of two eminent France and Colonies judges (not me!). Our member in Phoenix, Ray McGarrity will act as local coordinator, and I will be there to represent the Society. FCPS will offer a special award to the best France or Colonies exhibit in the show.

We are looking forward to seeing many of our members there, whether as exhibitors and/or as visitors and hopefully also some as volunteers. A good representation from the Western States – and everywhere else! – is something we're looking for. We shall have a FCPS table where you can meet or rest and perhaps purchase some of our publications that you may lack. We will hold an informal (questions and answers?) open meeting, followed by a hopefully interesting and educational program (any volunteer speakers, or must you listen to me?). We'll also try to come up with a get-together at a local restaurant.

Contact persons at present are the show chairman, J. Michael Swartz, P.O. Box 50502, Phoenix, AZ 85076-0502, for show prospectus and entry forms, etc. (e-mail <ARIPEX2004@aol.com>), and myself (see page 66, this issue). Frame fees are, I believe, \$10 per 16-page frame.

More information should appear in the October issue. Let's plan for a great turnout in Arizona!

– S. J. Luft

**DAHOMEY: THE BISECTS OF 1920**  
**[YOUR HELP, PLEASE]**  
by Bill Mitchell (FCPS #715)

The West Africa Study Circle is seeking your help with a new project. WASC, which is UK based, is primarily concerned with the former British and German colonies in sub-Saharan Africa, but it has recently begun to show a welcome interest in the stamps and postal history of the ex-French colonies in the area. It is currently engaged in preparing a record of covers bearing bisected stamps of Dahomey in 1920. A brief note of the reason for these improvisations may be of interest.

In the summer of 1920 the basic domestic (French group) letter rate was raised to 25c and became the same as the basic foreign letter rate, which remained unchanged for the time being. Consequently there was a substantial increase in the demand for stamps of this value, and stocks became exhausted in several post offices. So the bisecting, vertically or diagonally, of the 50c stamp was officially authorised for a short period from late September to mid-November, when fresh supplies of the 25c stamp were received from France. Inevitably, fancy covers bearing a variety of unauthorised bisects were produced during and shortly after this period. To date 22 covers have been recorded from notes of displays and recent French publications; in addition two apparently commercially used covers of 1929 have been noted with unauthorised bisects of the 1 franc stamp to produce the then current 50c rate. One unauthorised cover from elsewhere - Togo - has also been noted.

I will be most grateful if members possessing covers bearing bisects will send me the following details of them - date, stamp(s) (value and Yvert/Cérès catalog number), how bisected and places of origin and destination. If possible, photocopies will be appreciated. As noted above, strictly speaking only the 50c stamp of Dahomey should be involved, and only for this short period, but details of any philatelic or other unauthorised use from any of the colonies in West Africa will be of interest. Please write to me at 41, Graemesdyke Avenue, East Sheen, London SW14 7BH, United Kingdom. Thank you!

**WE GET LETTERS...**

On page 20 [of the January 2003 issue] Bill Mitchell speculates that the Nancy, France, manufacturer of the post card discussed in my October 2001 article was A.B. & Co. This is correct. I now have ten cards from that particular series. Each is numbered, the lowest being #1 and the highest #85. There is no logo on #1 while the next eight carry the logo of A.B. & Co. On #85, the logo says "Impr. Réunies," lending support to Mr. Mitchell's theory that A.B. & Co. changed its name after acquiring other publishers. (Jeff Ward).



## MEKONG RIVER EXPEDITION

by Ron Bentley (FCPS #1346)

In his review of Francis Garnier's exploits in Indochina, Florent Tricot<sup>1</sup> noted that mail from July 1866 to June 1868 came from the Mekong River expedition. This expedition was a valiant attempt to explore the headwaters of the Mekong River and hopefully find a navigable water route into southwestern China. Although Garnier had developed the plan, an older officer, Doudart de Lagrée, was put in command of the expedition<sup>2</sup>.

Three covers from Garnier while on this journey are shown here. All were addressed to "Monsieur A. Garnier," his father, at Varenne-St-Hilaire. All are small envelopes (114 x 75 mm) postmarked at Saigon with octagonal "CORR. D. ARMEES." date stamps. The first (Figure 1) is postmarked 17 February 67

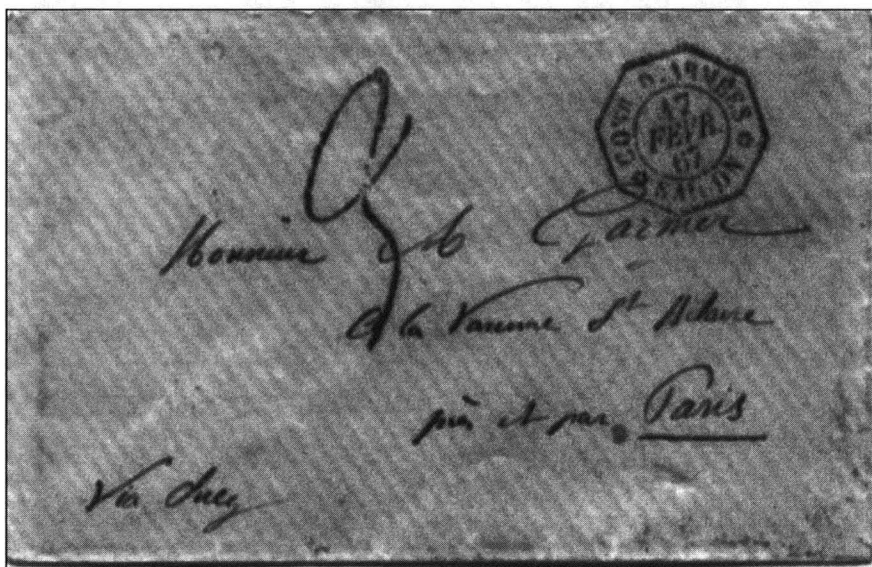


Figure 1. Cover posted 17 February 1867, when Garnier went to Phnompenh for supplies.

and bears a 3 décimes postage-due handstamp<sup>3</sup>. On the reverse, it has transit and receiving postmarks Marseille to Lyon 3 April 67 and Paris 1 (60) 5 April 67.

One can only imagine how, for communications with the outside world, the explorers had to rely on a loose network of river people who traveled along various parts of the river. Of course, without the letters' contents, one can not know when the mailing was actually "posted." However, based on accounts of the journey, we do know what the explorers were doing when the envelopes were postmarked in Saigon. From his history of the expedition, Osborne<sup>4</sup> notes that in February 1867, Garnier had gone to Phnompenh to secure passports for the exploration party. At that time, he had hoped to obtain scientific instruments and to receive private letters that were supposed to accompany the passports. Unfortunately; everything but the passports had remained behind in Saigon.



The second cover (Figure 2) postmarked at Saigon on 18 June 1867, has a 30 centimes postage due handstamp on the front. On the reverse is a La Varenne-St-Hilaire(60) 8 August 67" receipt postmark. By June 1867, the mission was on the verge of leaving Thai territory and about to enter areas under control of the Burmese king. After a year of travel, the group had en-



Figure 2. Unfranked 18 June 1867 cover cited for 30 centimes postage due.



Figure 3. 26 September 1867 franked cover; notation "Exploration due MeKong / F. Garnier" at lower left.

duced considerable hardship, but Garnier, above all, gave no thought of turning back. On 18 June, the date of the postmark on this letter from Garnier to his father, the party halted at the edge of the King of Burma's dominion while they awaited permission to enter which finally arrived ten days later on 28 June.

The third cover (Figure 3) is perhaps the most captivating. It bears a manuscript notation at the lower left "Exploration du MeKong / F. Garnier." It is franked with a 20 centimes Eagle and is postmarked 26 SEPT. [inverted] 67. It is known that the party had taken 20 centimes Eagle stamps with them when the started out. As demonstrated by the two earlier covers, Garnier had run out of stamps. This later letter, probably posted at Pnompenh, is franked. Perhaps Garnier was able to acquire additional stamps at Pnompenh. A red, framed PD certified that the proper postage had been paid. On the reverse are Marseille to Lyon, Paris and La Varenne-St-Hilaire postmarks.

Garnier must have been a prolific correspondent for so many items to have survived to today - a time span approaching a century and a half since he began his adventures in Indochina.

### Endnotes

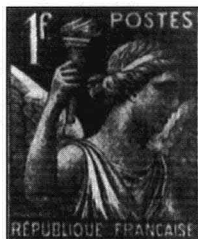
1. In *FCP* N° 268, April 2002, pp. 39-40. The author extends his thanks to M. Tricot for his comments and suggestions on this article.
2. Vichy France, in 1943, honored the two naval officers with, respectively Indo-China Scott 237 (Yvert 262), and Scott 259-261 (Yvert 261, 270, 272).
3. The rate for military mail was 20 centimes for the first weight step (7.5 gm) from 1 January 1862 through 31 August 1871. To encourage the use of stamps, unfranked mail was charged the recipient 30 centimes.
4. Osborne, Milton, *River Road to China: The Mekong River Expedition 1866-1873*; Liveright (New York), 1975.

## 1F IRIS -- THE GREEN AND THE RED

Way back, when I prepared *The Regular Issues of France 1876-1945 According to their Normal Postal Usage* (and it's predecessor serialization in our Journal) I was too green to question the statements of experts. By and large, I expect I still am. This admission is in reference to a faithfully translated statement by Monsieur R. Bath in the middle of page 66 of that 1974 handbook. It concerns the use of green versus red 1F Iris stamps in the two Zones of post-June 1940 Armistice France.

It should be obvious to any reasonably observant reader of my data on that page that (1) printings of the green and the red 1F Iris had begun long before the May-June 1940 debacle, and (2) it continued to be printed in both colors after the Fall of France. But why?

Michel Melot (in *Timbres Magazine*, September 2001) has some plausible answers, even though most official documents of the period are lacking. Prior to 1 December 1939, the 1F green Iris did not prepay much important mail, but that changed when the domestic 1x letter rate was raised from 90c to 1F. For the previous several decades, red (or similar shades) had been the official color (and continued to be) or 1x domestic letter stamps. The 1F green, officially suppressed 18 December 1939, was rapidly replaced from 14 December-



on by the red stamp, a simple change in ink color on the same printing plates. Because of wartime conditions and because of a large supply of the green stamp, its red replacement was not issued until after the surrender. Furthermore, M. Melot believes that the 1F green was reprinted [16 April - 6 (or 3?) August 1940] simply because red ink was in short supply, due to wartime problems and the use of red ink for other postage and postage-due stamps.

Returning to Bath's statement, Melot says that stocks of the 1F red filtered into post offices on **both sides** of the Armistice demarcation line, once stocks of the 1F green were becoming exhausted, and there are covers to prove that point. The use of both colors is known on covers from both Zones, though not from across the demarcation line as this was forbidding by the Germans, with **certain few exceptions**; the exceptions did not include personal correspondence of any sort. When personal correspondence was reestablished in September 1940, it was through the use of Interzone cards with no stamps affixed that might have covered secret messages.

It appears that the German authorities were interested only in preventing the use of postage stamps **between** the two Zones. Whether red or green was used within the Occupied Zone and whether red or green was used within the Vichy State apparently was of minimal concern to them. -- S. J. Luft

## RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

April 2003 marked the centennial of the first appearance of France's Sower issues. The event was celebrated in print by a number of periodicals in France, and also by our sister society in Britain. So what did we do on our side? Absolutely nothing! I take full blame for this lapse. With our backlog and the lead time required to publish an article, I should have planned for perhaps a "special issue" two or more years ago; frankly, the thought never once entered my head. Besides, a special Sowers issue would have further postponed long-awaiting articles and otherwise most patient authors. The best I can say in my defense is that we've done quite well these past years in publishing various facts about this, one of our favorite designs and series. Glancing at the Indexes from 1996-on, there are 15 articles of varying length and import, or notes [admittedly, nearly all were published prior to 1998], plus a review and ten "Types and Subtypes", all devoted to facets of *Mlle. Semeuse*. Reason enough, I trust, for not bedecking myself in sackcloth and ashes.

As has been my custom when travelling abroad, while we moved about Italy during most of the shooting was in Iraq, I avoid most philatelic activities (except perhaps in Paris), being more than active enough by mail and at stamp shows. However, I couldn't help but notice an apparent total absence of stamp shops in Italian cities large and small, whereas in Rome, we came across the meeting place of a numismatic society (within a *palazzo*!) and a corresponding coin dealership across the street. A sorry state of affairs indeed, but let's be thankful that the Rue Drouot, the *Passage des Panoramas*, and the Marigny market do remain in Paris.

Still sounding the alarm, the hobby regretfully has suffered the loss or downgrading in recent months of two WSP (National-level) exhibitions: California's Filatelic Fiesta and Missouri-Kansas MIDAPHIL, following the earlier demise of Florida's FLOREX. I also need to mention the loss, via attri-

tion, of many accredited judges. This continuing downsizing of our hobby is paralleled by the unfortunate decrease in our Society's membership. Fortunately, the quality and quantity of contributions to our *Philatelist* by a cadre of willing authors continues unabated. Or so we can hope!

*Enfin*, what can we do? We could bring new and former collectors into the fold. We could tell "secret" F & C collectors about our Society. We could retain overseas members by offering to make them "trading partners" when it comes to paying our dues there and their dues here. Help us and help yourselves, or else there'll be no one left to purchase our collections when we're done with them.

## GOOFS ON STAMPS

Beginning with this issue, we will bring you examples of errors on stamps of France and related, courtesy of Jean-Pierre Mangin and his monthly feature in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*. And we'll undoubtedly need a better title for this feature. Any worthy suggestions?



Figure 1. Monaco (1992): Columbus' 'Niña' had only two masts and not three.

Figure 2. France (2002), 100th Paris-Roubaix bicycle race: the bike's mechanism is all wrong, forcing the cyclist to walk rather than pedal.



Figure 3. France (2000) Red Cross Semi-postal: The value in euros of 0,55 in lower right of stamp should have been expressed as 0,46€ + 0,09€, inas-

much as only the 0,46 did postal duty, the 0,09 going to the French Red Cross.

## THE SIEGE OF PARIS CORRESPONDENCE OF WILLIAM JAMES BROWN

by Ashley Lawrence (FCPS #3107)

William James Brown was an English commercial traveler who had a hosiery business and shop in Paris, where he remained during the Siege of 1870-1871. His wife, Margaret Binfield Brown and their children had returned to England.

In 2001 I acquired at auction in London a marvelous correspondence which included some 35-40 letters from Brown to his wife. The correspondence, written in English, spans the entire period of the Siege, from beginning to end, and gives full and vivid descriptions of the events. Alistair Home has quoted from a number of the letters in his excellent *The Fall of Paris*. Eight of the letters were sent by *ballon monté*, and the flights include the *Armand Barbès* and the *Ville d'Orléans*. One of the real gems is a fully documented pigeongram, as described in my articles published in the *Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society* [Great Britain] and in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in June of 2002.

I thought our readers would appreciate seeing an example of American kindness, and its reward, which came to light during my researches into the Brown correspondence.

Mrs. Brown had sought every means possible to communicate with her husband in Paris which, as you should know, ranged from very difficult to next-to-impossible. At length, in January 1871, she received assistance from Mr. Adam Badeau, the U.S. Consul General in London. Mr. Badeau sent a letter from Mrs. Brown by diplomatic pouch to the American Ambassador in Paris, Mr. Elihu Benjamin Washburne, who forwarded it to Mr. Brown. Mr. Badeau sent to following undated note to Mrs. Brown from his home at 5, Lower Belgrave Street, Eaton Square, in London:-

*Mrs. Brown*

*Madam,*

*I have great pleasure in informing you that I have forwarded your letter un[der] cover to Mr. Washburne, who will doubtless see that it is delivered to Mr. Brown. I beg as an especial favor that you will not make my action known, as I should have at least a thousand applications daily to repeat it.*

*Very respectfully,*

*Your faithful servant,*

*Adam Badeau*

Mrs. Brown was able to return this American kindness some weeks later, having rejoined her husband in France. The family had taken lodgings in Chantilly, outside Paris, on account of the Communard insurrection. The railway authorities were refusing to allow male couriers to enter Paris because of the civil commotion, but did not restrict female travelers. At great personal risk, Mrs. Brown volunteered to carry two important letters from Chantilly and to deliver them to an American bank, John Munroe & Company, at 7, rue Scribe in Paris. The Bank expressed its gratitude in its receipt for the letters:-

*Reçu de Mme. Brown*

*Deux lettres venant de Londres avec bien de remerciements.*

[Received from Mrs. Brown two letters from London, with all our thanks.]

*Paris, 17 Mai 1871*

*pp. Munroe & Co.*

Mrs. Brown had undertaken a dangerous mission, as the extremist Communards in Paris had just destroyed the great Napoleonic column in the Place Vendôme, and unruly crowds threatened violence. Fortunately, she managed to return home safely that evening, happy in the knowledge that she had returned the American favour.

I learned of Mrs. Brown's action as a volunteer courier during the Commune, thanks to the kindness of Mr. Peter Brown, the great-grandson of William James Brown, who made available his family archive for my research. Other items in the 1870-1871 Brown correspondence and their postal-history significance will become subjects of further articles in due course.

## **AMAZING 1870/71 WONDER STORIES – 77**

**by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)**

Another mailing has arrived from Brian Birch, including a number of photocopies of old articles about "our" war in the British and German press. It is interesting and sometimes amusing to find out what authors knew, or thought they knew, that made this topic worth writing about.

One writer reported that occasional mail must have gone into besieged Paris by balloon and also by train, because he had seen covers, addressed to Paris from outside, marked *par ballon monté* and one or two others with railway postmarks reading (*Somewhere-Paris*). These items are not forgeries. On the other hand, it seems never to have occurred to him that attempts to get through to Paris may have been unsuccessful; at least, he does not mention that possibility. That he did not know about diplomatic means of getting mail through both ways is not too surprising, but I should have thought that mail smuggling, often mentioned in daily papers inside and outside of Paris, would have been noted.

These and other errors are fairly common even today, simply because scissors-and-paste artists don't bother to read modern literature containing results of new research. Occasionally, however, one finds accounts just *too* amazing not to cite. One such from Brian's bundle is *The Post in the Air* by R. E. R. Dalwigk in *Stamp Collecting*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 27 September 1913, pp. 27-28. He takes the cake for most errors in the least space, some of them appearing to be his original invention to boot. The man had imagination, though a far from perfect memory:

"At the beginning of the siege all the English, American, and Russian residents were permitted to send private letters to their friends outside the Prussian lines, but although the term "private letters" was used, it goes without saying that all such correspondence was opened by the Republican and Prussian officials before being despatched to its destination. It was, however, only a matter of a few days before this permission was withdrawn, and thus balloons and pigeons were the only available means of carrying on the postal service, which by this time had become thoroughly disorganized. ...[All pure imagination.]

"The first regular postal balloon was ready for flight on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1870, but, owing to mishaps, was unable to ascend with its burden.



[That was, in fact, the second unsuccessful trial to inflate a leaky old gas bag.]

"Four days later, on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1870, a decree was issued demanding the "loan" of all balloons in Paris ... This decree was the suggestion of the Director of Posts of the Third Republic – M. Theisz. [The name should be Rampont. Theisz – to use the proper spelling – was postmaster of the Paris Commune.]"

Dalwigk appears to have had a slight problem with English. For example, he speaks of "congested mail bags" and translates one of Maury's immortal propaganda slogans as "Foolish people, we slaughter ourselves ..." That last beats even the terrible German version that was mentioned in a previous *Amazing* column, also contributed by Brian, that one from *The Stamp Lover*, Vol. 2 No. 8, January 1910, p. 166, in which Count Paul Durrieu revealed that it was his father who translated the French slogans into "German". -Now back to Dalwigk:

"[Of two balloons,] unfortunately, number one burst before ever starting, and number two broke loose and disappeared whilst the provisional air pilot was arguing with the Republican officials as to whether or not he was to receive the 2,500 fr. which he demanded to undertake the venture. [The latter must have been the *Liberté*, which escaped empty on 17 October. It was to have been piloted by the experienced Wilfrid de Fonvielle, who never demanded nor was paid one franc for flying out of Paris later aboard the *Egalité*.]

"This double catastrophe appears to have had a depressing influence upon those who were responsible for the balloon post, as no further attempt was made until October 7<sup>th</sup> ... [I don't know about official depression, but the weather was depressed and caused repeated postponement of balloon launches in early October.] ..."

The author then presents some statistics of the Paris balloon mail, starting with "68 ascents were made by different pilots." [Of the 67 balloon starts that went according to plan, one was that of the sole official unmanned balloon. The escape of the *Liberté* was as much an accident as the non-inflation of the leaky *National* (20 September) and *Union* (21 September), not counted among successful starts.] The shortest successful flight was not that of the *Liberté* but of the *Piper I*. The longest successful flight was not by the *Général Chanzy* but the *Ville d'Orléans*. The smallest mail load carried, 20 kg, is often thought to have been aboard the *Général Cambronne*, but the *Armand-Barbès* carried half as much. The largest mail load, 550 kg, was not on the *Garibaldi*, said to have carried 450 kg, as is also claimed for a few others. [Actually, about half of what is generally counted as "mail" is printed matter, samples etc., left over at the start of the Siege and transported when excess balloon lift power became available towards the end of October. The average daily weight of letters mailed at besieged Paris was between 20 and 30 kg per day, so 20 kg taken by the *Cambronne* was a normal day's weight of letters.]

Finally, Dalwigk states that all letters postmarked at Paris between 23 September 1870 and 28 January 1871 and addressed to places outside Paris "must have reached their destination through the medium of the balloon." Why 23 September? The earliest date should have been the 18<sup>th</sup>, at least for the late collection periods that day, when no more trains left Paris. It is true that mail from Paris by smugglers and by diplomatic means was not postmarked there. But a few post-office employees got out of and into Paris between mid-September and early October. They did carry mail, postmarked at Paris, through the lines. Such mail, with postmarks from outside dated after 23 September, is difficult to distinguish from balloon mail. It is evidently much rarer than most balloon mail, ranking with *Neptune* mail in rarity.

Finding and citing such philatelic nonsense is not just amusing: its main purpose is to remind us that *intelligent* collecting requires more than a knowledge of the latest specialized catalogue. In any active field of human endeavor, a few people are investigating the limits of that field. With logic, luck, and perseverance they may be able to push back its frontiers, i.e., establish better facts and relationships than had been available up to then. In order to appreciate what we have in our philatelic collections, we should acquire the newest reliable knowledge as fast as it becomes available.

A few people, who are first to know, want to keep their secret and refuse to publish. They can't be forced to do so. They should, however, remember that they cannot derive any financial benefit from their behavior unless and until they eventually get others to appreciate that knowledge. How better than by publication? Besides, someone else may discover the same thing and, having published his discovery, will get full and sole credit for it.

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## SOME SHOW REPORTS

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(Continued from N° 271, January 2003, p. 31)

- ARIPEX'03 (Tucson, AZ, January 2003): Vermeil medals to Lew Bussey and Steve Washburne for, respectively, US and Portuguese postal cards exhibits; Silver medal to Bob Kinsley for "French Occupation of West Africa 1892-1905"; single-frame Silver-bronze medal to Cheryl Ganz for a Graf Zeppelin 1828 flight exhibit; Cheryl's superb "Hindenburg" exhibit was shown in the Court of Honor.
- Sarasota Nat'l. Stamp Exhib. '03 (Sarasota, FL, February): Gold medal to Paul Larsen for "German Togo 1885-1914".
- SANDICAL 2003 (San Diego, February): Dave Herendeen showed his British Empire Dues in the Court of Honor.
- COLOPEX'03 (Columbus, OH, February): Grand Award and gold medal to indefatigable Pau Larsen for "Ubangi-Shari-Chad".
- Ameristamp Expo 2003 (Biloxi, Miss., February-March): Single-frame Championship Grand Award to Ed Grabowski for his exhibit of Reunion 1900-1901 use of dues as postage; Gold medal to Tom Broadhead for his single-frame Paris 1925 Exposition exhibit; two Gold medals plus a Vermeil medal to Jay T. Carrigan for three single-frame (non-F&C) exhibits; two Vermeil medals to Steve Washburne for exhibits of Portuguese material.
- St. Louis Stamp Expo 2003 (St. Louis, March): Grand Award and Gold medal to Steve Walske for his U.S. Civil War exhibit.
- Garfield-Perry March Party 2003 (Cleveland, March): Reserve Grand and Gold medal to Paul Larsen (what, again!) for his Leeward Islands exhibit.
- TEXPEX 2003 (Dallas, April): Vermeil medal to Bob Kinsley for "Spanish Civil War Refugees in France".
- WESTPEX 2003 (San Francisco, April): Gold medals to Chuck LaBlonde for his Swiss WWII mail exhibit, and to Dickson Preston for "Commercial Zeppelin Mail"; Vermeil medal to Bob Kinsley for "Switzerland and the Two World Wars".
- The Plymouth Show 2003 (Plymouth, MI, April): Gold medals to Paul Larsen for "Caroline Islands to 1914...", and to Peter Smith for "Egypt: The Italian Years 1865-1879".
- Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2003 (ex-ROMPEX) (Denver, May): Gold medals to Jim Taylor for "St. Pierre Miquelon 1871-1938", to Dave Herendeen for "The Duval Type Postage Dues in the French Community", and to your editor for "France: Military Campaigns 1823-1897". Vermeil medal to Steve Washburne for "Portuguese Traveling Post Offices". Ken Nilsestuen was the apprentice judge.

## *Mers du Sud and Mers de Chine*

Mail to naval personnel on high seas or at far-off stations has always been, at least to me, one of the more fascinating aspects of postal-history collecting. Here are two recently offered 19th Century covers that certainly fit that niche, even though I decided not to acquire them as being too steep for my budget.

The first cover (Figure 1) was mailed 31 Oct. 1863 from Paris. The lozenge E killers thus represent late usage of the lozenge killer at Paris, Place de la Madeleine, which already had been furnished with a Star 3 killer. Addressed to a naval cadet aboard the "Diamant," on station française des mers du Sud, which translates as French naval station in the South Seas. Letter is endorsed for transit via British packet and Panama.



Figure 1.

But, if we start visualizing palm trees swaying under balmy Polynesian breezes, we are completely off the mark. There is a letter inside stating that the writer had spoken with the Minister of the Navy, who is reinforcing the cadet's station and that its mission is now to blockade the ports of Acapulco and Mazatlan. We are therefore in the midst of the Mexican Campaign that



Figure 2.

temporarily placed Maximilian on the throne. (Cover unsold at 750€, January 2002).

The second cover, and a highly attractive one it is (Figure 2), left Saigon 14 Aug. 1874. It bears the hitherto unknown to me administrative cachet of the Commander-in-Chief of the Naval Division in the China Seas. Instead of the expected naval anchor in the middle, that space is blank, which permitted the handwritten endorsement "*faire suivre*" (please forward), in case the naval lieutenant and his warship, the "*La Galissonnière*," were not at Brest harbor in France. (Cover offered June 2001 at 10,000 francs).  
--S. J. Luft

## CAMEROUN 27.8.40—THE SECOND TRIAL PRINTING by M. P. Bratzel, Jr. (FCPS #2394)

In his benchmark work, *Cameroun: The 1940 Overprints / Cameroun: Les surchargés de l'an 40*, Dudley Cobb described the three trials, six settings, and various adjustments for the overprints applied to Cameroun stamps during the fall of 1940.<sup>1</sup> His detective work has unraveled much of the mystery surrounding the preparation of 50 different stamps, plus major varieties. Further, since non-uniform type was used to prepare the overprint plates, each position in each setting can be uniquely plated. As a result, a complete collection of these issues runs into the hundreds of stamps.

This note amplifies Cobb's observations and conjectures about overprint Trial B which, he posited, was applied to a single sheet of the 25-centimes Waterfall stamp and a single sheet of the 5-franc Canoe stamp, each sheet consisting of 50 stamps. For Trial B, the Ç in FRANÇAIS has a cedilla, the three lines of the overprint are grouped, and the numerals in the date 27-8-40 are separated by hyphens (Figure 1). There are no known trials of the setting finally used on the Waterfall (Setting II-1) and the Canoe (Setting II-2) designs (Figure 2).

Cobb conjectured that, for Trial B, the overprint setting consisted of only 20 positions, in two rows of 10, applied three times to a sheet of 50 stamps, so that each stamp and the bottom sheet margin received the overprint. Thus, overprint positions 1-10 would have been applied to sheet positions 1-10, 21-30, and 41-50; and overprint positions 11-20 would have been applied to sheet positions 11-20, 31-40, and the bottom margin, which could be called positions 51-60.

The Trial B block of six shown in Figure 3 supports this hypothesis. The overprints at sheet positions 31 and 51 (overprint position 11) are identical, as those at sheet positions 32 and 52 (overprint position 12). Note, for instance, the very short hyphen (almost a dot) between the 27 and the 8 for overprint position 11, as well as the

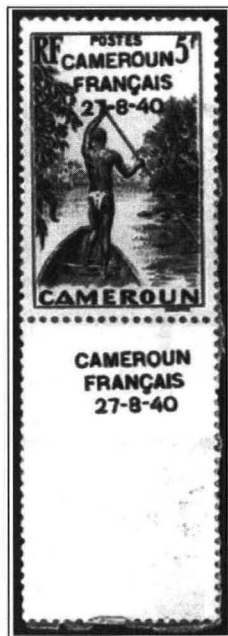


Figure 1. Trial B. Overprint positions 4 and 14.<sup>1</sup>



Figure 2. Issued Stamp. Overprint setting II-2.

nick to the bottom left leg of the N in Cameroun; and the heavy 4 for overprint position 12. Further, the overprints for rows 5 and 6 are angled slightly upward, compared to that for row 4, evidence that they were applied in separate operations, two rows at a time. In addition, Cobb confirms<sup>2</sup> that the overprint on the top two rows of the sheet is straight, so that any angled overprint on a stamp must be from the fifth row of the sheet.

The Trial B vertical pair illustrated in Figure 1 also has an angled overprint, evidence that it comes from the same sheet as the stamps in Figure 3. Further, since the overprint moves closer to the top of the stamp as one proceeds from left to right across the sheet, by judicious measurement of the position of the overprint relative to the edge of the stamp, we can conclude that the pair in Figure 1 corresponds to sheet positions 44 and 54 (overprint positions 4 and 14), respectively.

Cobb showed that the letters and figures comprising Trial B were rearranged to become Trial C, where words and numerals are separated. This was applied, with the overprint parallel to the longer side of the stamp, to two lamido's wife values and two elephant values. Trial C, then, with cedillas removed and the separation slightly narrowed, became Setting I, applied to sixteen denominations of these two designs. Cobb describes the transformations in extensive detail.<sup>1</sup>

From a comparison with overprints illustrated in Cobb's book, it would appear that the overprint positions in Trial B were rearranged (through Trial C) into Setting I as follows:



Figure 3. Trial B. Overprint positions 1-2 and 11-12. (reduced to 70%)

Trial B	Trial C	Comments
(2 rows of 10)	(4 rows of 5; same positions as Setting I)	
Position 11	Position 1	"dot" between 27 and 8; nick to bottom left leg on N in Cameroun
Position 12	Position 2	Heavy 4 in 40
Position 14	Position 4	
Position 1	Position 6	Broken B used as an R in Français
Position 2	Position 7	
Position 4	Position 9	Nick upper right edge of O



Of particular interest is the variety broken B used as an R at overprint position 1 (sheet position 41) in Figure 3.

Thus, another piece of evidence is now available to confirm how the issue was prepared.

Thanks are extended to Dudley Cobb for review comments and amplification and for permission to reproduce Figure 1.

#### References

1. Cobb, Dudley. *Cameroun: The 1940 Overprints / Cameroun: Les surchargés de l'an 40*. Published 1997. 112 pp. ISBN 2-9511613-0-1. Available from Albion Bookshop, 29 Albion Street, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1LX, United Kingdom.
2. Cobb, Dudley. Personal communication, January 21, 2002.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE FRONT

Unlike the United States, which neither issued special Military Franchise postage nor permitted privately printed labels to be used on soldiers' mail, France did both. It even permitted privately printed F.M. postal stationery, as illustrated here in Figure 1, which could be sent sealed.

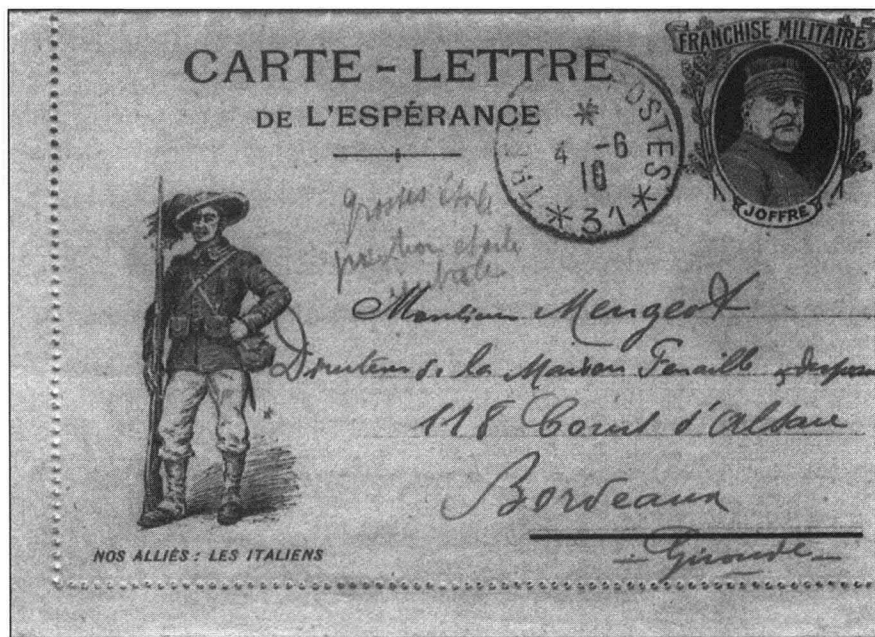


Figure 1. (reduced to 92%)

There were other similar cards honoring other allies besides the Italians, but I suspect that since Maréchal Joffre was the venerable commander-in-chief of French forces at the time, his may have been the only vignette used for the series. Although "*Espérance*" means "Hope", which sounds quite right for a soldier's letter, I take L'ESPÉRANCE to be the name of the company or organization that produced the letter-cards. Note that it looks as if it is addressed to the *Directeur de la Maison Fenaille et l'espérance*(?)



The message, seen in hindsight, seems pathetically mundane. The writer lists himself simply as M. Chinon, with a return address of the Quarters of the Post Officer, 15th Dragoons, Sector 31. [Trésor et Postes (= Sector) 31 served the 3rd Cavalry Division, which apparently included the 15th Dragoons]. He's been waiting for the letters of which the addressee spoke to him earlier, but nothing has arrived so far despite regular couriers. This is bothersome because they have changed sectors, and he doesn't know if he has enough postal envelopes "*pour faire ces petites opérations*," but nevertheless M. Mongeot should send his, and the writer will do all he can to satisfy him. A postscript mentions that he always has red and blue ink pads in his carriage.

This sounds to me like arranging for philatelic covers. The rest of the letter, postmarked 4 June 1916, is devoted to the standard courtesies but does include the information that the writer's unit is in Oise but can access the Somme trenches by railroad. Little did he know that, before the end of the month, he would be involved in the bloodiest battle in history, the one that cost a million lives.

As a postscript, I would appreciate learning from our readers something about the source of these L'Espérance letter-cards.

-- Al Shumsky

## BALLOON POST OF THE 1871 PARIS COMMUNE

The superb collection of Paris Commune (18 March-28 May 1871) material formed by Hubert Cappart was sold by J. Robineau in April 2002 (auction sale N° 170, Lots 1-197). A little known aspect of the Commune struggle against the central government, and one I found particularly interesting, is the story of the Commune's balloon mail service from newly re-besieged Paris, after the 1 April reopening of the Paris post offices. The lot descriptions were accompanied by a short explanatory text which, as I subsequently learned from Ernst Cohn, had been abstracted from "Les Ballons de la Commune" by Paul Maincent, in *Icare* N° 77 (1976, pp. 74-97)--a fine publication I happen to own but hardly ever make use of.

About 30 balloons from the recent Siege of Paris had been brought back to Paris by 20 March 1871 through the auspices of the former aeronauts Mangin and Goddard, and stored in premises of the postal administration. These were considered as no longer serviceable for current use, as the national government completed its encirclement of recalcitrant Paris, and a number of new, smaller free (unmounted) balloons were improvised instead, at the request of yet another Siege veteran, Nadar. Made of paper and 4 to 6 meters in diameter, they were inflated with illuminating gas. Construction and deployment were entrusted, also at Nadar's suggestion, to Duruof, with Nadar as his second. All these names are very familiar to postal historians for their considerable contributions to the balloon saga of that earlier (German) Siege of Paris.

On 20 April a decree created the Company of Civil and Military Balloonists (*Aérostiers*) of the Commune of Paris. It bestowed the title of captain-commander to Duruof (Figure 1) and of lieutenant "warehouser-general" to Nadar.

The first of the new balloons, 120 m<sup>3</sup> in volume, was launched the very next day (21 April) from the Place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, at 5:45 p.m. It carried some 40 kg of political proclamations and tracts. A few minutes later it fell into the Seine.

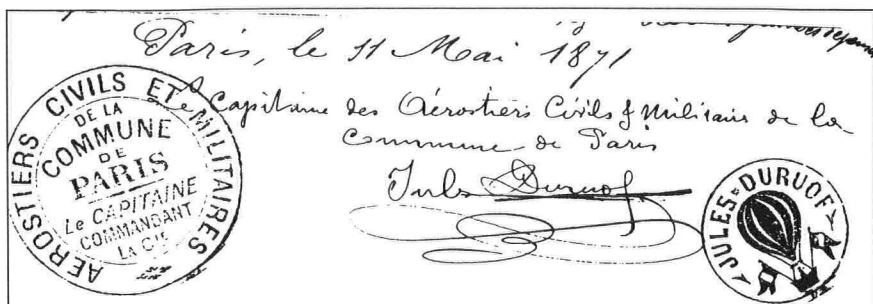


Figure 1. Duruof's postscript of 11 May 1871 to a letter, showing his personal cachet (right) and his official captain-commander's cachet (left) [reduced to 74%].

The national government, seated at Versailles, soon got wind of this scheme and declared that any balloons (and balloonists!) that escaped from Paris were to be seized (and arrested).

The next balloon launched, according to not-always-reliable contemporary news sources, lifted off on 23 April, and another possibly on the 24th. A 3 May balloon caught fire after having risen to a considerable height. Another left on the 6th. Most likely, only four or five Duruof balloons were launched afterwards, the last one on 18 May. All left from the square fronting the Hôtel-de-Ville; all landed nearby, or were captured by the Versailles government, or self-combusted. In spite of some newspaper and other reports, no people were ever carried. The Hôtel-de-Ville was destroyed by fire the night of 24 May by the retreating Communards.

Apparently no mail was placed aboard the Commune balloons; only proclamations and tracts declaring the Commune's right to exist peacefully to the



Figure 2. Reduced copy of upper part of a typical tract that would have been flown on a Commune balloon.

rest of France in expectation of, if not support, then at least understanding. And apparently no such **flown** documents from the experiment have survived; at least none were included in the auction lots. Uncirculated tracts and related documents that were not destroyed, by the Versailles government or for reasons of self-preservation on the part of surviving Communards and their families, do exist (Figure 2) and should be quite rare. Whether "posted" or not, these can make fine, worthy additions to any advanced collection of Paris Commune history and postal history.

*[The two illustrations are from Maincent's article, reduced in size]*

-- S. J. Luft

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## NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

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- *La Poste aux lettres dans le département du Var, tome IV.-1849-1876*, by Robert Gregnac-Daudemard [The posts in the Var Dept., 1849-1876]; 74 pp., A4 format, black-and-white illustrations; 10€ + 1.75€ postage (more beyond France?), from the Musée Régionale du Timbre, Le Château, Boite Postale 51, F-83340 Le Luc-en-Provence, France. (Postal history and postal markings, with indices of value).
- *Les Réexpéditions dans le régime intérieur des origines à 1878*, by Michèle Chauvet [Forwarding of domestic mail, to 1878]; 90 pp., A4 format, illustrated; 24.50€ (postpaid within France and perhaps elsewhere), payable to the Académie de Philatélie; from La Poste aux Lettres, 17 rue du faubourg Montmartre, F-75009 Paris. (Detailed study, with reproductions of official texts, of how and where mail of the period was forwarded, cryptic addresses decoded, postage due modified or decided upon, etc.; an addition to the Academy's encyclopedic series).
- *Catalogue des timbres fiscaux locaux et spéciaux de France et Monaco* [Catalog of the local and special revenue stamps of France and Monaco, 2003 edition]; 179 pp., A4 format, illustrated; 53€ postpaid (more beyond France); may require joining the Société Française de Philatélie Fiscale; inquire of Henri Barbero, the society's secretary-general [see April 2003 issue, p. 57 for more details]. (Catalog of the revenues that would not be covered in the Yvert catalogue of revenues).
- *Marques postales et oblitérations de département de l'Aube* [Postal markings and cancels of the Aube Dept.]; 150 pp., A4 format, card cover; an upcoming reprint of the sold-out 2002 edition; information from the Société Philatélique de l'Est, Boite Postale 6, F-10001 Troyes cedex, France.
- *Les "Luquet" en francs* [the franc-value (= pre-euros) Mariannes de Luquet]; 45 pp., A5 format; black-and-white illustrations; 6€ postpaid within metropolitan France, more elsewhere), payable to SO.CO.CO.DA.MI, from Jean-Claude Gagné, 18 rue Danièle-Casanova, F-77330 Ozoir-la-Ferrière, France. (Detailed study of the sheet stamps and booklets, and their press runs).
- *Fakes - Forgeries - Experts*, Paolo Vollmeier, editor, vol. 6 (2003); 208 pp., card cover; illustrated; texts in or translated into English; US\$45 + \$4 postage or UK£30 + £2 postage, from James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 56484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus; [www.JamesBendon.com](http://www.JamesBendon.com); fax +357 5 632 352; or your usual sources. (This series is written by certified experts in their fields; vol. 6 includes article(s) on France).

- *Catalogue Dallay - Timbres de France, 2003-2004*; some 700 pages; 20€ + postage; and *Timbres d'Andorre, Monaco, Terres Australes, Europa, 2003-2004*; 18€ + postage; inquire of DALLAY SARL, 31 rue des Bourdonnais, F-75001 Paris; fax +(0)1 42 36 71 78.
- *Les timbres sociaux-postaux d'Alsace-Lorraine* [The social-postal (= fiscal) stamps of A-L], by Yves-Maxime Danan; 54 pp., A4 format, color illustrations; 30€ + postage; published by SPAL; inquire of the treasurer André Lader, 52, rue de Monswiller, F-67700 Saverne, France. (Detailed study by the foremost revenue specialist in France).
- *Marianne à la Nef*, by Jean-Luc Trassaert; CD-ROM of 130 "pages" and more than 100 color illustrations; Windows and Mac compatible; 20€ post-paid within France; 22€ elsewhere, via first-class mail; payable to the author at "Les Gauchers", F-24230 Bonnesville, France. (Detailed study of the 25F and 0,25F French definitives of 1959-60 that show Marianne standing on a boat's prow: press runs, sheet stamps, booklets, coils, official documents regarding the stamps and their creation, by the foremost expert on recent French definitives).

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## FOR THE RECORD

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(Continued from N° 271, January 2003, p. 27)

- **833.)** Our member Paul Edinger takes exception to statements made in "Announcements and News" for the January 2003 issue (top of p. 28), regarding the location of Port Inini and the timeframe of its date stamps. Using his own holdings and Michel Melot's article in the January 1988 *Timbroscopie* as evidence, Prof. Edinger shows a double-circle PORT ININI/TERRITOIRE ININI dated 8 February 1938 from Melot's article, which also suggests that the date stamp may have existed in 1937, well before the War. Edinger owns a single-ring 1946 date stamp that lacks the "France Libre" shown in Figure 1 of page 28. Therefore, Port Inini, during its eight or more years of postal existence, had no less than three distinct date stamps. The date stamps certainly confirm that the village was located within the administrative Territory, as that entity was defined during part of the last century.

Jeff Ward, based on a study of two period maps, believes that Port Inini lay close to the ill-defined "border," and it may not have mattered in the least to the inhabitants. However, they had been provided with Territoire Inini stamps and cancellers, placing the village, apparently officially, within the Territory. He owns two Port Inini covers, of December 1940 and April 1946, both with Inini stamps, and knows of earlier usage: *Bull. Col.Fra* N° 88 shows a December 1939 cover and notes one of 1936 on page 14.

- **834.)** Announcement in the *Journal officiel de la Guadeloupe*, 21 December 1900 [probably applicable to many, most or all the other Colonies]: "Due to a change in the appearance of postage stamps, France has not been as yet able to furnish the colony with stamps of the 1c to 15c values, and their stock is now depleted. Consequently, the Head of the Service of Contributions and Posts asks the public to bring objects and correspondence that should be franked at 1c to 15c to post offices. Once payment has been made at the windows at the regular [untaxed] rate, these

items will, as always, be sent to their destinations [*usage of P.P. and similar handstamps to denote prepayment — Editor*]. This situation should end around 9 January 1901, as a shipment of stamps will sail from France on 26 December 1900.

- **835.)** By a 25 June 1889 order of the Governor of Guadeloupe, current 1c stamps were overprinted 5 centimes in black by the Government printer (Figure 1a), inasmuch as stocks of the 5c value had been used up. A similar procedure was followed on 17 December 1890, with black 5c overprints (Figure 1b) on, this time, the 1F value. These decisions were reported in the *Journal officiel de la Guadeloupe* of 19 December 1890 and 27 February 1891, respectively. [from *Bull. Col.Fra*, N° 102, 2002].

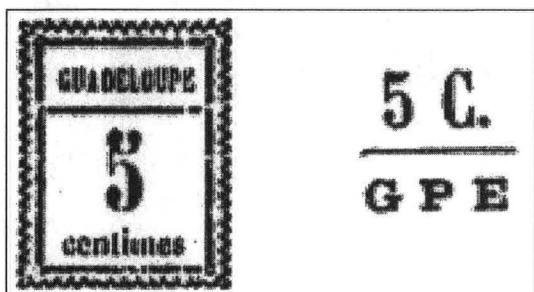


Figure 1a (left) and 1b (right).

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

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- Our Transatlantic-mail maven, Richard F. (Dick) Winter was the recipient of the 2003 Lichtenstein Award of the Collectors Club of New York.
- Although the *Archives Nationales* have been closed to the public since November 2001 (security measure in the wake of “September 11”?), a number of microfilms of interest to philatelic researchers may be consulted at the library of the Musée de la Poste de Paris. The one-page list of available microfilmed documents may be obtained from your Editor for a stamped self-addressed envelope. Time frame of the information covered ranges from the 18th Century to 1863.
- The village of Beni Amran near Blidah, Algeria was briefly renamed Maréchal Pétain, from June 1942 until soon after the Allied Landings of November 1942. It used a simple broken outer circle (*facteur-receveur*) date stamp, undoubtedly rare. Thanks to Jean Goanic, in *Feuilles Marcophiles*, Supplement to N° 310 (MARCOPHILEX XXVI issue), 2002, who opines that Petainists in Algeria were even more pro-fascist than those in France.
- Bob Stone’s name was added earlier this year to the American Philatelic Society’s Hall of Fame, for a lifetime of outstanding service to philately. This is a always a posthumous honor.
- The French 1x-letter rate (to 20 gm) will be increased on 1 June 2003 from 0,46€ to 0,50€. This brings the rate up to the European average.
- Prolific stamp designer, engraver and artist Claude Durrens, born in August 1921, died in December 2002.
- Earliest known dates of use of French stamps in annexed Savoy and Nice are 14 June 1860 for Savoy and 20 June 1860 for Nice. The earliest French

stamps known are all the 20c imperforate Empire. The cancels were, of course, still Sardinian at the time. (Information from J. P. Magne, in *Documents Philatéliques*, N° 175, 2003).

- For a number of reasons, Vichy-era stamp issues could not be or were never sent to the various colonies. This included New Caledonia, which associated itself with Free France. J. D. Ladiessé shows (*Bull. du Cagou*, N° 19, 2002) three such Vichy issues intended for New Caledonia, cancelled at Nouméa on 27 May 1941, and addressed to Marseille. But it so happens that the affixed stamps hadn't been issued until 10 November 1941! While it's possible that this is a philatelic cover prepared in Unoccupied France and sent under cover to New Caledonia to be cancelled there with whatever date stamps could be procured, it is much more likely that the 27 May date stamps are fakes and that the cover never saw New Caledonia (unless perhaps in more recent times). We should assume that such trickeries were fairly commonplace, and that potential buyers make themselves aware of any such aberrations and impossibilities.
- Member Frederic Angleviel, of far off New Caledonia, has designed that TOM's and Wallis & Futuna's 600F Alain Gerbault stamp, both issued this Spring. (Fig. 1).
- Another designer and engraver of France and related stamps, and a noted book illustrator, Claude Durrens (23 August 1921 - 20 December 2002) has passed on. His first philatelic efforts appeared in 1959, with stamps for Cameroun and for France. He contributed his efforts to well over 400 stamps, including engraving the superlative Marianne de Cheffer definitives. His final work was the 4,40 franc Collège de France of 1997.
- Stamp Day, known until recently in France as "La Journée du Timbre," and now called "La Fête du Timbre," originated in Germany in 1934. France followed suit only in 1944 with the 1F50+3F50 Arms of Bernard de Villayer.
- Edible postcards are being "issued," successfully it appears, by a young Marseille couple. They are made to look like cards, complete with spaces for a stamp, bar code, address, but are concocted primarily of sugar, chocolate, and other goodies, in a number of delectable designs and flavors. Wonder how well they might survive if mailed?
- France may have too many post offices per capita (one per 3,400 persons). Offices are being closed, and most of their basic postal services are being performed by small local businesses, à la *Recette Auxiliaire* of olde.
- Has any reader purchased and used the Dallay catalogue, either in print form or as a CD-ROM? If so, we'd like to hear about its "plusses and minuses". If no one's using it, we may not bother to list future editions in "New Books, etc."
- Year 2002 has passed without any serious thought about commemorating the 10th anniversary of the death of that major 20th Century composer and organist, Olivier Messiaen. *Sic transit gloria mundi!*
- The French public appears to be 91 percent satisfied with the services rendered by La Poste (according to a poll by La Poste...); 79 percent feel the price of a postage stamps (0,46€) is reasonable, but that poll was taken before the increase to 0,50€.
- The following recent French stamp were issued without phosphor bands, contrary to postal requirements: 0,58€ Alain Bosquet, 0,53€ choreographic art, 0,46€ Vacations 2002 (booklets only). Some sheets of the 0,46€ Georges



Figure 1.



Perec show partial to completely missing phosphor, due to drying out of the phosphorized ink cylinders.

- > Michel Avenel is the new president of the CNEP, the French association of stamp dealers and experts.
- > Since the first of the year, BPMs have become **BPIs (Bureaux Postal Interarmés)**, as a result of the reorganization of the military-postal service. This means that army (and air) and naval sectors will all be served by BPIs. The changeover of canceling devices began on 1 January and was largely or entirely completed by 20 March 2003, taking longer for machine cancels than for handstamps.
- > Marked color differences have been noted on some recent and current French stamps. The 1,02€ Marianne de Luquet, printed in yellowish green to (18) February 2002, came out in bottle green on (6) March 2002. (Days shown in parentheses are the currently known last and first days and subject to modification). The 1,87F flower precancel's petals, when first printed in June 1998, glow reddish under UV light. In the second printing of January 2000, the petals remain UV light, like the rest of the design.

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## NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

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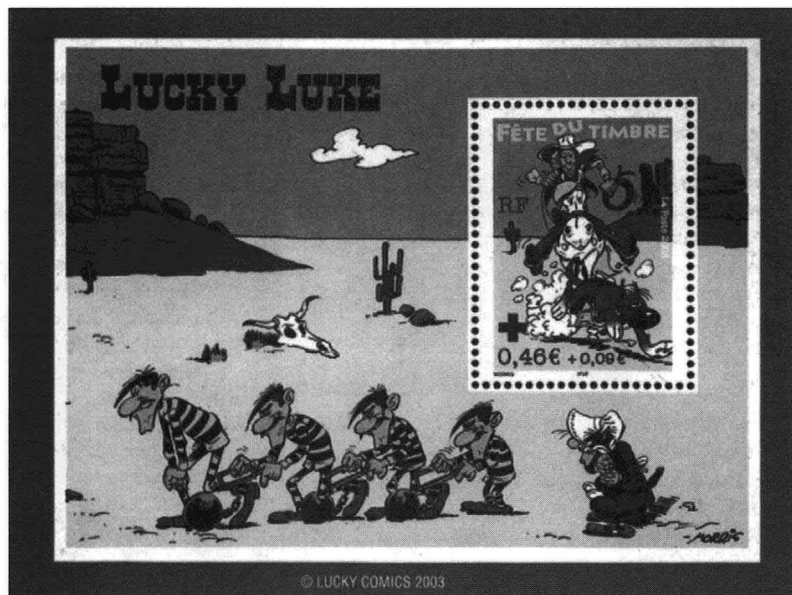


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(Continued from N° 272, April 2003, p. 61)

### France

- > 15 (17) March 2003: "Lucky Luke" cartoon character (Stamp Day) 0,46€; plus sheetlet with one at 0,46 + 0,09€; plus 3,95€ booklet of five at 0,46 and three at 0,46 + 0,09:
- > 22 (24) March: Birds of the Overseas Terrs. (Nature series): 0,41, 0,46 (times two), 0, 69€; and 2,02€ sheetlet of the four stamps;
- > 4 (7) April: 0,46€ Nantes (and its tramway) (Loire-Atlantique Dept.);



- > 30 April (2 May): 0,46€ Pierre Bérégovoy (1925-1993);
- > 3 (5) May: 0,50€ Gen. Milan R. Stefanik (1880-1919);
- > 8 (9) May: 0,50€ Charter of the Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
- > 8 (12) May: 0,50€ Poster Art (EUROPA); 0,50€ aircraft carrier "Charles de Gaulle";
- > 24 (26) May: 0,75€ Michelangelo's "Dying Slaves"; Regions of France: ten stamps at 0,50€ each; and sheetlet of the ten at 5€;
- > 1 (2) June: Marianne de Luquet 0,58, 0,70, 0,75, 0,90, 1,11, and 1.90€ [to meet the new 1 June 2003 rates, which I hope to be able to publish in the October issue].

### Andorra

- > 10 February 2003: 0,69€ Legend of the Margineda Pine;
- > 17 March: 2,36€ 10th Anniv. of the Constitution;
- > 1 April: 0,67€ Architectural ensemble at Les Bons;
- > 14 April: 1,02€ Hôtel Mirador.

**Withdrawal:** 7 February 2003: 0,46€ Hôtel Roselda.

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

**Withdrawals:** 31 December 2002: 1,00F Magnetite, 2,70F plunging petrel, 3,00F Kerguelen Arch, 3,00F military landings on Terre Adelie, 3,00F X.

- C. Richert, 4,00F Jean Coulomb, Antarctic Treaty, 8,00F Astronomers' memorial, Youth set block of four at 3,00F each, 16F frigate "La Fayette", old ship riggings set of four at 5,20F, 24F cuttlefish, 27F radio communication *Mir/Crozet*, 29,20F *Bryum laevigatum*.



### French Polynesia

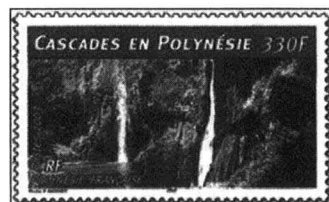
- > 8 March 2003: 55F two Polynesian women;
- > 10 April: 330F Waterfalls.

### Mayotte

- > 2 January 2003: 0,46€ Ecomuseum of L'yang and vanilla;
- > 3 February: 0,79€ banana tree
- > 7 April: 0,46€ woman wearing festival mask; 0,79€ sailfish.

### Monaco [all values expressed in euros]

- > 1 February 2003: 2,82 Circus Festival for Young people;
- > 5 February: 0,46 50th anniv. of the Yacht Club; 0,80 10th World Bobsled championships;
- > 3 March: 1,30 Tennis Masters of Monte Carlo; 1,19 Int'l. Institute for Peace;
- > 24 March: 0,79 Int'l Dog Show;
- > 5 April: 0,41 Junior Chamber of Commerce;
- > 12 April: 0,46 75th anniv. of Monte Carlo Country Club;
- > 14 April: First bathymetric chart of the oceans, two at 1,25 se-tenant.



**New Caledonia**

- 30 January 2003: 100F cartoon characters for Valentine Day;
- 8 February: 70F stamp-on-stamp) 1903 Cagou bird ovpt. on 40c Group Type);
- 10 April: Noumea Aquarium: three se-tenant circular stamps at 70F each.

**Withdrawals:** 30 November 2002: 80F booklet of 5F stamps, 140F PhilaKorea sheetlet, 260F Alphonse Daudet sheetlet, 30F Cagou bird, 405F Gauguin, 70F philately at school, 100F humpback whale, 100F Year of the Snake, 100F roussettes festival, 70F "Hobie Cat 16", 100F World Cup Soccer 2002, 100F Year of the Horse, 100F Valentine Day (amorous bats), 100F sport of cricket, 100F whale.

**St. Pierre & Miquelon**

- 23 April 2003: Permanent-value green Marianne de Luquet, overprinted for SPM use [for non-priority mail and printed matter];
- 28 April: 0,75€ blueberries.

**Wallis & Futuna**

- 6 March 2003: 600F Alain Gerbault on boat (see page 92);
- 31 March: Postal arts of the Islands 5, 10, 15, 20, 40F;
- 10 April: Coral-reef seascapes 95, 105, 110, 115F;
- 28 April: 130F Bicent. of birth of missionary St. Pierre Chanel.

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## F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

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**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

At the recent Annual Meeting, the current officers and directors of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society were re-elected. At that meeting, I also announced, as I am announcing here, that this will be my last term as president. This will provide nearly a year for us all together to do something I have not been able to do by myself, which is to find a successor. There is currently no one active in the New York area who has expressed any interest in becoming president. Bill Wallis is currently serving as both vice-president and treasurer, but it has been understood that he would continue as treasurer, but was not a candidate to become president. Ed Grabowski, John Lievsay, Marc Martin, and Martin Stempien are all past-presidents, and not interested in serving again. The other local Board members have reached that age at which we are all happy that they are still able to perform their current duties, but cannot expect them to do any more.

The prescribed duties of the President are not actually that time-consuming. The most obvious is to write this letter, which appears in each issue of the *Philatelist*. The most important is to think about the direction and future of the Society, and, perchance, to lead. If, as seems likely, the next President does not live in the New York City area, he will have to develop and imple-

ment a plan for operating the Society without the monthly or bimonthly Directors' meetings we have had in the past. I believe that all the other present officers and directors are willing to continue, provided they are physically able to. Should the next president want to have some associates join him on the Board, the vice-presidency is open, and one or more additional vacancies are likely by next May.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer,

RMS

### NEW MEMBERS

- 3295 MONEY, LLOYD J., 904 21st Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. (General France: Mint -Used - on Cover. Postal History: Used Abroad. Modern France: Mint. French Community: Offices Abroad.)
- 3296 DEKEMA, JAN D., 353 Rancho Rio Avenue, Ben Lomond, CA 95005. (Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used - On Cover. 1870-1871 Issues. Sage Type: 1876-1900.)
- 3297 SCHWARTZMAN, PETER, 2476 Silkwood Ct., Spring Hill, FL 34606. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint. Regular Issues: Mint. Modern France: Mint.)
- 3298 DAVIS, ALAN R., P.O. Box 85039, Tucson, AZ 85754-5039. (General Collector: 19th Century. General France: Mint. Postal History: Used Abroad. Classics 1849-1876 Mint - Used - On Cover. 1870-1871 Issues. Cancellations. French Community: Offices Abroad. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used. Cancellations & Postal History. Philatelic Literature. Particular Interest In Numbered Cancellations GCs & PCs).
- 3299 BLIZZARD, C. ROBERT, 1027 Grovewood Court, Clearwater, FL 33764-4924. (General France: Mint. Sage Type: 1876-1900. Modern France: French Community: Offices Abroad-CFA Issues. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used. All Colonies & Territories:.)

### REINSTATEMENTS

- 3264 MARSHALL, CRAIG, 1702 "M" Street, Omaha, NE 68135.
- 2101 SIMON, JAMES R., P.O. Box 63, Dunn-Loring, VA 22027-0063.
- 3183 TASCHOR, YACOV, P.O. Box 16178, Tel-Aviv, Israel.
- 3138 DREYFUS, ALAIN, 13 Rue De L'Etang, F-68170, Rixheim, France.
- 3247 BAUDOT, JEAN-FRANÇOIS, 24 Rue De Gramont, F-75002 Paris, France.

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- STEELE, JOHN R., 5861 South Snowdrop Place, Boise, ID 93716.
- 1262 LADUKE, HARTLEY J., 142 Sodom Road, Norway, ME 04268.
- 3181 BOONE, CHARLES, 1250 Midwest Lane, Wheaton, IL 60187-7382.
- 1838 TUCHMAN, WALTER, M.D., 215 East 80th St., New York, NY 10021.
- 2826 AKERSTROM, DONALD B., 1320 Sun Valley Road, Solana Beach, CA 92075.
- 2332 FINK, ALLEN, 13 Carriage Hill Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

### DROPPED FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES

WARNE, ALAN M. JR., BERTHAULT, LAURENT.