



France & Colonies Philatelist



Vermeil Medal at COLOPEX 2002

Silver Medal at 6th Canadian National Philatelic Exhibition (2002)



France First Issues 1F + pair 25c used from Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe on 2 November 1851 and cancelled with continuous roller cancel upon arrival in Paris. This was the 1F50 rate to France via England and Calais during the 1851-1853 period when Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana and Reunion attempted prepayment of mail by using French stamps. According to Tristant, this is the earliest recorded cover illustrating this use, from any on these colonies.

CONTENTS**ARTICLES**

Quadrised and Bisected Stamps of Mayotte (<i>R. R. Barracano</i>)	3
French Marcophily -- Mail By Rail 3. Gares (<i>Robert T. Kinsley</i>)	10

SHORTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories -- 81 (<i>Ernst M. Cohn</i>)	14
Jean-Luc Trassaert (1934-2003) - An Appreciation.....	17

REGULAR AND SPECIAL FEATURES

Questions And Answers	15
The Carnet Corner (<i>Bob Seeke</i>)	16
Types And Subtypes	17
We Get Letters	18
Some Show Reports	18
New Books, Pamphlets And Catalogues.....	19
For The Record.....	20
Random Editorial Jottings	23
Reviews	24
Announcements And News	26
New Issues And Withdrawals	30
SOCIETY NEWS	31
President's Letter	31
Membership Changes.....	32

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QUADRISECTED AND BIASECTED STAMPS OF MAYOTTE

by R.R. Barracano (FCPS #2807)

I apologize in advance for dwelling on some non-philatelic aspects of this strange tale of *Les Timbres Coupés de Mayotte*. I do feel the background is at the very least, amusing.

A Brief Background

In 1962, continuing along the path to independence, the four islands of the Comoros chain (Figure 1) became semi-autonomous. France continued to reg-

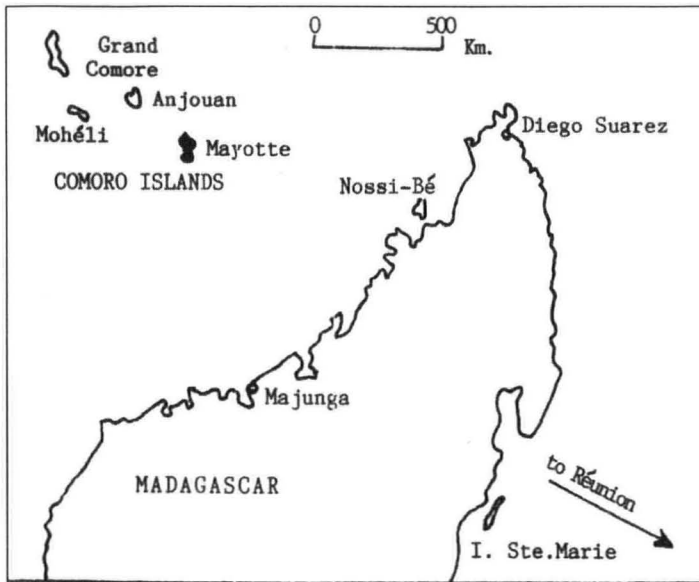


Figure 1.
Location map
of the Comoro
Islands.

ulate the currency, external affairs, defense and justice through the offices of the "Representative of the French State and Government." During the early 1970s demands for total independence increased, leading to negotiations under the Fifth Republic's constitution which stipulated rules for the process toward independence for "Overseas Territories." This culminated in the referendum of 22 December 1974, expressing strong majorities in favor of independence in three of the four islands. The fourth, Mayotte, opted to remain French.

In June 1975 a delegation of French legislators confirmed the results of the previous December, and prepared for formal French recognition. Representatives of the three "secessionist" islands met at Moroni, the capital of the archipelago, located on the largest island, Grande Comore, and unilaterally declared independence 6 July 1975. Contrary to the rules promulgated by the French representatives the previous month, the delegates proclaimed the independence of the whole of the Comoros, including reluctant Mayotte.

Several days later the French government officially severed ties with the three "secessionist" islands. Giscard d'Estaing's Elysée Palace ordered a "representative of the French State" to Mayotte to show France's solidarity with its fellow countrymen. With one hour to pack and make the military Noratlas

airplane, that representative was my neighbor and friend, Roland Veyrent, who had to arrive at Mayotte's unlighted Pamandzi airport during the daylight hours of 13 July 1975. On arrival, Veyrent was lodged at the *case de passage* where a special 2.2 meter square bed had been fashioned for General De Gaulle's visit a decade before.

Veyrent awoke the 14th to the sounds and sights of a whole island dancing and singing; hundreds of dugout canoes, and a parade of the 400-strong contingent of the French Foreign Legion. Guest of honor the 14th; Veyrent faced a sobering 15th, a day to face the practical realities of the situation. The wherewithal to run a state had been abandoned at Moroni, now the capital of a hostile foreign state.

Reestablishing Postal Services

The other islands at first used non-violent means to bring Mayotte into line, including boycotts, which closed many enterprises at Mayotte. The Mahori, for their part, organized things as best they could while Veyrent set himself the task of locating the financing and material needed to run a small island state, including stamps. On 5 August 1975 the post office was reopened only to discover that the key to the safe containing Comorian stamps and ready cash had departed with the pro-independence manager. Steps were taken to get stamps from the French office at Moroni, now essentially a foreign consulate.

Roadblocks to Normal Life at Mayotte

The resupply of stamps at Mayotte through the good will of the other islanders was stymied by a coup d'état at the end of July when the first president of the independent Comoros, Ahmed Abdallah was replaced by Ali Soihili, supported by a radical group from Gabon and inspired by the infamous Belgian-born Bob Denard. Soihili never abandoned the idea of adding Mayotte to independent Comoro, and having tired of peaceful marches, Soihili flew to Mayotte at 5:30 one morning at the head of 60 men, including some Europeans. When news of the invasion reached residents near the airport, they responded by cutting down and rolling coconut trees onto the runway, banishing any thought of departure by the would-be liberators. At the head of a column of gendarmes, lately borrowed from Réunion Island, was Mr. Veyrent, who met the ragtag band on the road to Dzaoudzi, Mayotte's capital city. As the sun grew higher in the sky, hostile crowds formed around the interlopers. Veyrent convinced the villagers to remove the trees allowing Soihili and his band to depart with their lives.

In spite of his flair for the dramatic, Soihili was a sincere Paris-educated engineer, whose ambitions were cut short when he was assassinated soon afterward in another coup, which brought the original president back to power. The latter was assassinated in his turn, this time by associates of Bob Denard.

Options for the *Service Postal de Mayotte*

By fits and starts, the postal administration at Mayotte began to function. The keys to the safe were found and sufficient stamps to last until the end of 1975 were discovered. In the meantime, attempts were made to (1) obtain stamps of the Comoros from independent Comoro, (2) attach the postal services of Mayotte to those of Réunion and thus to make use of plentiful supplies there, or (3) obtain permission to use French stamps. The closing of French offices at Moroni foreclosed the first option and, confronting a sensitive diplomatic situation, the government rejected options 2 and 3. Her be-

havior having been condemned by the Organization of African Unity and described by the United Nations as an "annexation," France needed to keep a low profile until a new referendum, scheduled for 8 February 1976, could establish once and for all the views of the Mahori. In the meantime, supplies of the 50 francs CFA values for mail to the exterior dwindled.

The prefect of Mayotte, Younoussa Bamana and the postmaster general sought the advice of Mr. Veyrent, who consolidated the remaining stocks of Comorian stamps. By decision (*arrêté*) N° 106) of 17 December 1975 (Appendix A), 200 francs CFA values were to be cut into four and the 20CFA values into two, for sale at the Dzaoudzi post office; 187 200f CFA Pablo Picasso (Scott C57, YT air 57), seven 200f CFA orchid (Scott C28, YT air 28), and 500 20f CFA bracelet (Scott 123, YT 97) stamps were cut. A cachet was applied to the stamps with the words "Administration Provisoire de Mayotte *Le Préfet*" before cutting (Figure 2). The 50 francs CFA franking to the exterior was to consist of either a quarter

of a 200-franc CFA stamp, (Figures 3-5) or two whole and one bisected 20-franc CFA stamps.

By mid-January these stocks had been disbursed necessitating a second *arrêté* (N° 25) of 16 January 1976 (Appendix B) for 233 200f CFA Grand Mufti Said Omar (Scott C61, YT air 59) and 75 100f CFA leprosy bacillus discovery (Scott C55, YT air 55) stamps. The leprosy stamps were bisected to achieve the 50 francs CFA rate. There was some fear that the islanders might have been offended by the cutting of the image of the late Grand Mufti (Figure 6) or that cutting anti-leprosy stamps might release leprosy bacilli. Such fears proved unfounded, and this second supply lasted until the February 1976 referendum, which once again showed the determination of the islanders to remain French. Mayotte then utilized the stamps of France until 1997 when it began issuing its own stamps. It remains French to this day.

It is not known how many of these pre-cancelled and pre-cut stamps were used. The author knows of no registered, double-weight, or other non-typical uses of the cut stamps, and would appreciate hearing from any reader who might have more information.



Figure 2. A cut block of six of the 20F CFA value, showing the pre-cancellation.

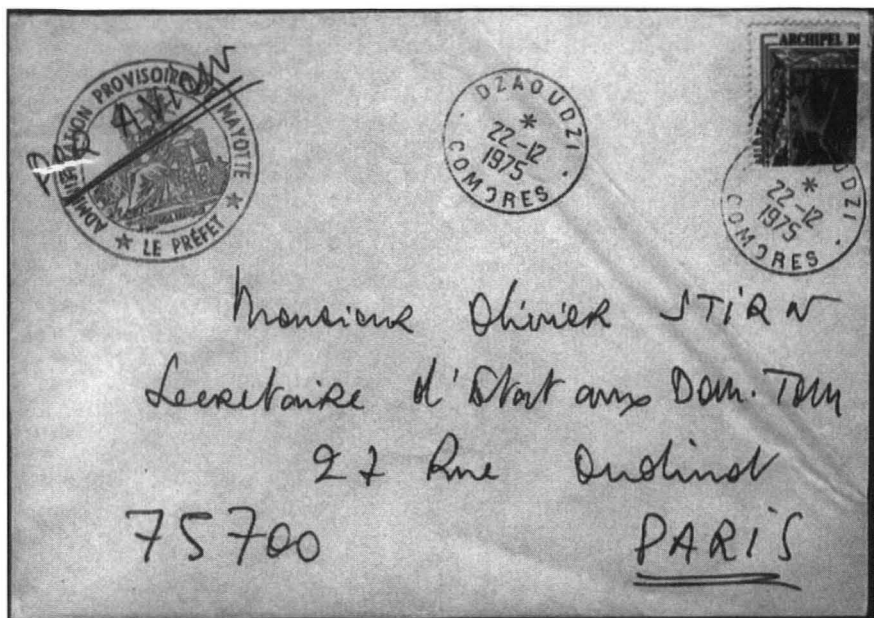


Figure 3. Letter of 22 December 1975 to an official in the administration of the Overseas Depts. and Territories, legitimizing the quadrisecting. Note that the precancel is also M. Veyrent's administrative cachet. (reduced to 70%)



Figure 4. Letter of 8 February 1976 from M. Veyrent to his wife; same administrative cachet as on Figure 3. (reduced to 70%)

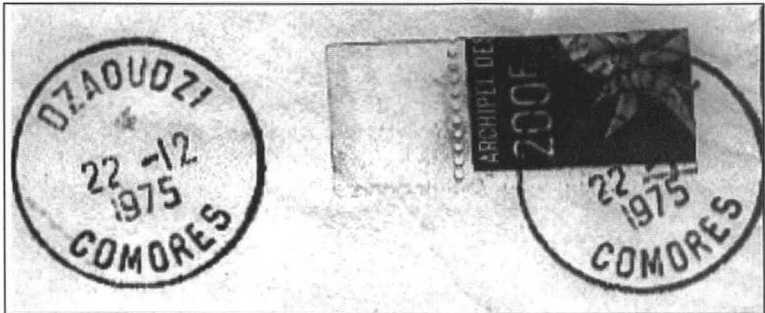


Figure 5. Detail of a quadrisected 200F CFA orchid.



Figure 6. Enlargement of a quadrisected 200F CFA Grand Mufti.

PREFECTURE DE MAYOTTE

REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

Liberté - Egalité - Fraternité

D E C I S I O N N° 106/PM.-

RELATIVE A L'UTILISATION DE TIMBRES DECOUPEES
POUR L'AFFRANCHISSEMENT DES LETTRES

-----oOoOo-----

LE PREFET DE MAYOTTE

Vu la délibération N°75/4 du 18 Juillet 1975 relative à l'organisation de l'Administration provisoire de Mayotte;

Vu la pénurie de timbres postaux d'une valeur de 50 Frs CFA;

Vu les nécessités de service.

D E C I D E :

ARTICLE 1er. - Les 187 timbres "Archipel des Comores" représentant -PABLO PICASSO-, d'une valeur faciale de 200 Frs CFA, détenus par le service des Postes de Mayotte seront découpés en quatre parties dont chacune surchargée du cachet "Administration Provisoire de Mayotte", sera admise dans l'affranchissement des lettres pour une valeur de 50 Frs CFA;

ARTICLE 2. - Les 7 timbres "Archipel des Comores" représentant -L'ORCHIDE ANGRACIUM EDURNEUM- d'une valeur faciale de 200 Frs CFA, détenus par le service des Postes de Mayotte, seront découpés en quatre parties dont chacune, surchargée du cachet "Administration Provisoire de Mayotte", sera admise dans l'affranchissement des lettres pour une valeur de 50 Frs CFA;

ARTICLE 3. - Les 500 timbres "Archipel des Comores" représentant un bracelet artisanal d'une valeur faciale de 20 Frs CFA détenus par le service des Postes de Mayotte seront découpés en deux parties dont chacune, surchargée du cachet "Administration Provisoire de Mayotte" sera admise dans l'affranchissement des lettres pour une valeur de 10 Frs CFA, en complément de deux timbres normaux ayant chacune une valeur faciale de 10 Frs CFA.-

ARTICLE 4. - Les receveurs des Postes de Dzaoudzi et de Mamoutzou, sont chargés, chacun en ce qui le concerne de l'exécution de la présente décision qui prendra effet à compter du 18 Décembre 1975.-

MAMOUTZOU, LE 17 Décembre 1975
LE PREFET

YOUNOUSSA BAMAN.

Appendix A (reduced to 57%)

PREFECTURE DE MAYOTTE

REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE
Liberté - Egalité - Fraternité

DECISION n° 25 /PM

relative à l'utilisation des timbres découpés
pour l'affranchissement des lettres.

LE PREFET DE MAYOTTE

Vu la délibération n° 75/4 du 18 juillet 1975 relative à l'organisation de
l'Administration provisoire de Mayotte,

Vu la pénurie de timbres postaux d'une valeur de 50 f CFA.

Vu les nécessités de Service.

D E C I D E

Article 1er. Les 233 timbres Archipel des Comores représentant SAID OMAR
BEN SOUMETH, GRAND MIPHTI DES COMORES d'une valeur fiscale de 200 francs
CFA détenus par le service des Postes de Mayotte seront découpés en quatre
parties dont chacune surchargée du cachet "Administration provisoire de
Mayotte" sera admise dans l'affranchissement des lettres pour une valeur de
50 francs CFA.

Article 2.- Les 75 timbres Archipel des Comores représentant 1841-1912
recouverte du Bacile de la lèpre, d'une valeur fiscale de 100 CFA détenus
par le service des postes de Mayotte seront découpés en deux parties, dont
chacune surchargée du cachet "Administration provisoire de Mayotte" sera
admise dans l'affranchissement des lettres pour une valeur de 50 francs CFA.

Article 3.- Le Receveur des Postes de Dzaoudzi est chargé de l'exécution
de la présente décision qui prendra effet à compter du 19 janvier 1976.

Mamoutzou, le 16 janvier 1976
LE PREFET

signé : YOUNOUSSA RAMANA

AMPLIATIONS :

R.R.M..... 1
P.T.T..... 4
S/P.Dzaoudzi. 2
Archives..... 4

Pour copie certifiée conforme

Le Représentant de la République à
Mayotte



R. VETRET.

FRENCH MARCOPHILY -- MAIL BY RAIL

by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS N° 2180)

(Concluded from #274, October 2003, p. 106)

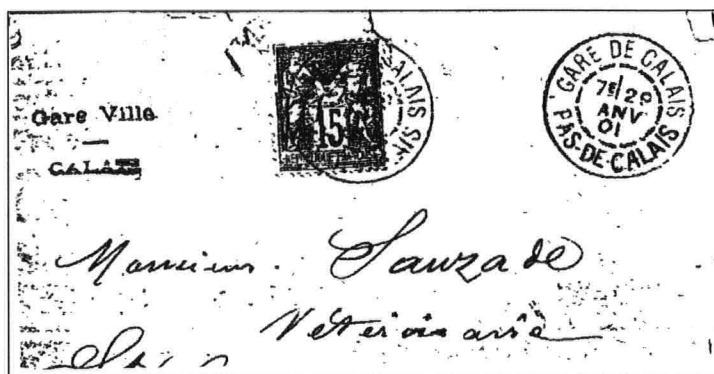


Figure 9 (reduced to 75%)



Figure 10 (reduced to 75%)



Figure 11
(reduced to 75%)

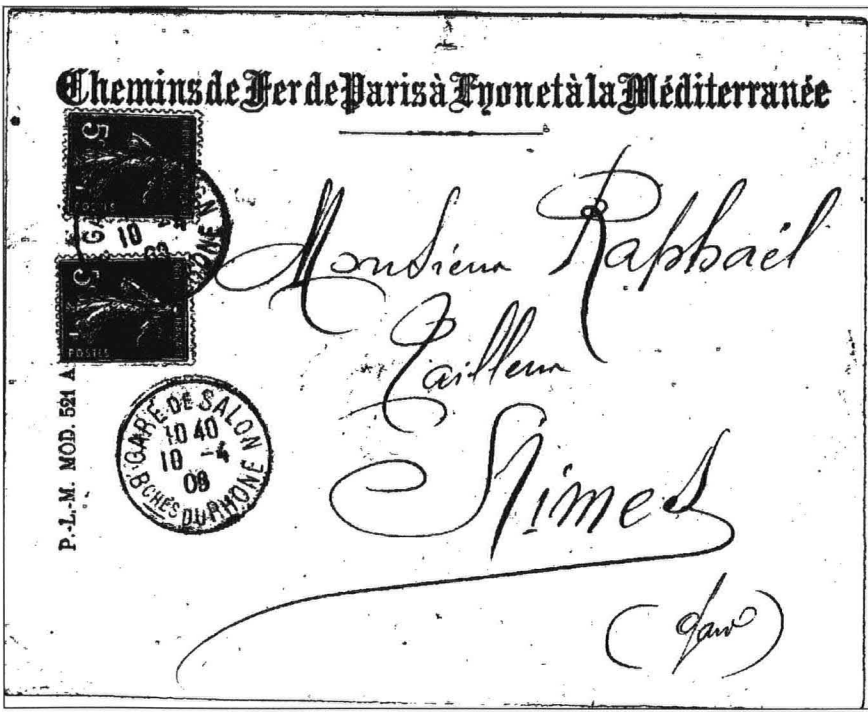


Figure 12a (reduced to 75%)

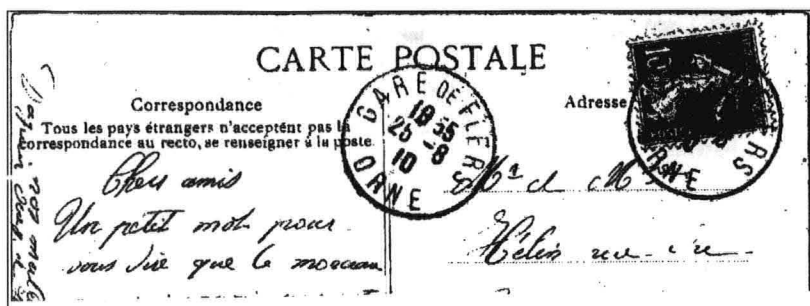


Figure 12b (reduced to 75%)

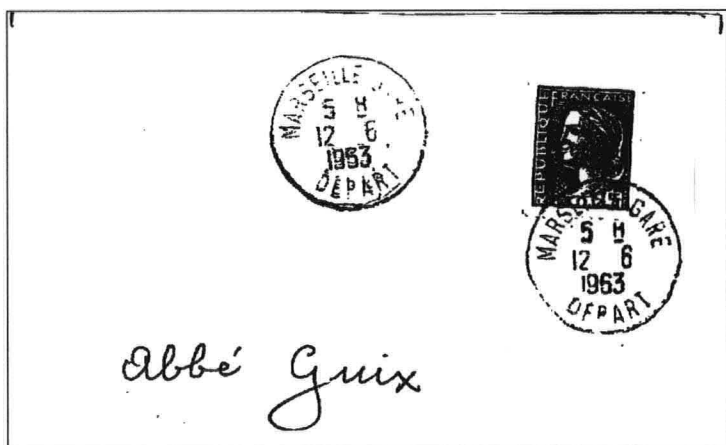
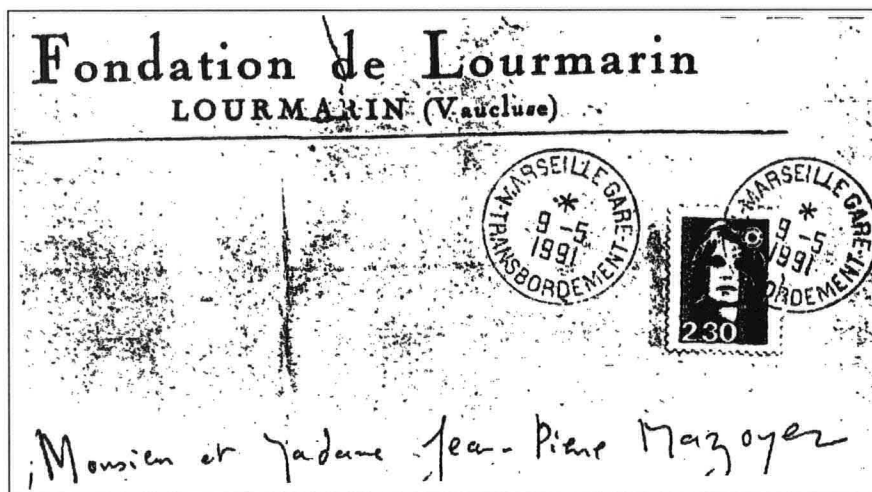
Figure 13
(reduced to 75%)

Figure 14 (reduced to 75%)

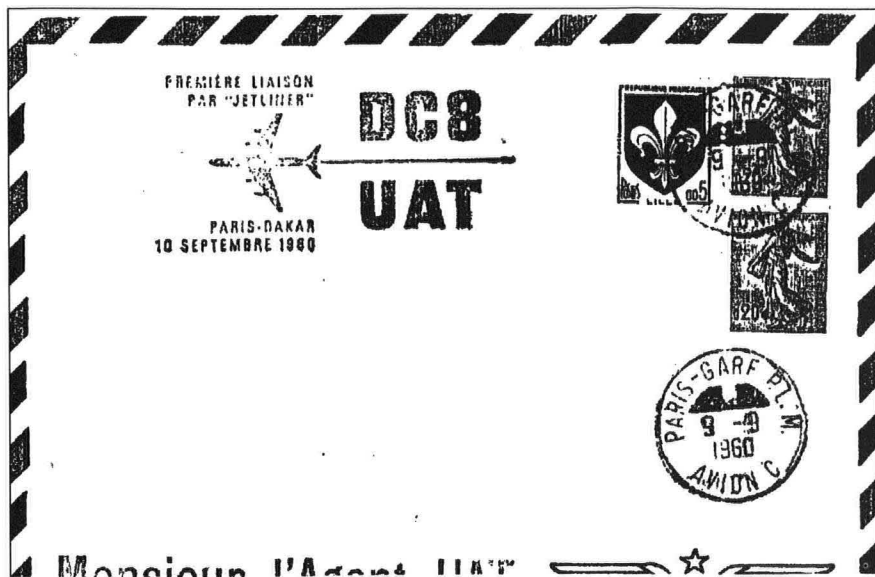


Figure 15 (reduced to 75%)

Figure 16

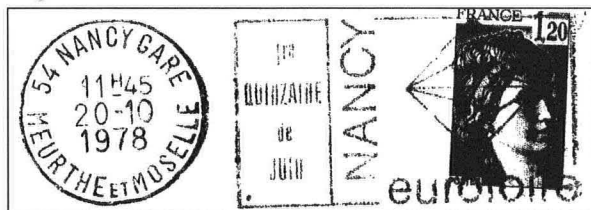


Figure 17

Figure 18 (reduced to 75%)



AMAZING 1870/1871 WONDER STORIES -- 81

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

This is mostly the continuation, and presumably conclusion, of No. 59, concerning the only folded letter known thus far to have been destined for the balloon *Union*. It could not be inflated, however, because of its leaky gas bag. That letter, as you will remember, did fly out on the *Neptune* on 23 September. It is almost the twin of another folded letter, by the same writer, to the same addressee, and with the same postmarks, which also flew on the *Neptune*. This latter had the phrase "par Ballon monte" written at the top, clearly an afterthought, because that phrase was unknown until published in the *Journal officiel* of 27 September.

Whereas the dateline on the *Union* letter was known, 'Wednesday, 21 September, 3 p.m.', the inside of the other note had never been published. It had been in the Courtois collection, then in that of Herbert Schlegel, and ended up at the Musée de la Poste in Paris, which mentioned that fact briefly in its *Actualités* No. 20, (Dec. '94 - Jan./Feb. 95). I had cut out that notice, because it gave me the acquisition number PO MO 994.36 for that piece as well as others, mentioned in more detail below.

Having learned about the existence of the *Union* letter, I wrote to the Musée, asking to buy the photocopy of the text side of its *Neptune* cover. Well, the Musée had fallen on bad times, so it took about three years before I got pictures of both front and back of the latter, at no charge. And here is the interesting beginning of the text:

Paris, 22 Sept. 70, 9 p.m.

My dear friend, I wrote to you yesterday but fear greatly that my letter did not reach you...

The remainder of the note has no bearing on postal history. The dateline tells us that the note was written some hours after the meeting called by Rampont and at which Nadar proposed to let Duruof, owner and pilot of the *Neptune*, then being used as an observation balloon, take his balloon out of Paris with mail. That is precisely what happened the next morning. Duruof left, carrying along whatever mail had been given to him personally and with post-office mail bags weighing some 100 - 125 kg, depending upon the writer's source. Among the *plis confiés*, i.e., personally entrusted mail, were both notes by L. Courtois. We shall differentiate between them by calling his note of the 21st the *Union* note and that of the 22nd the *Neptune* note.

What Postmaster General Rampont "forgot" to tell anyone is that those bags did not contain any part of that mountain of letters being accumulated at Paris but merely other types of mail--printed matter, samples, etc. That is why *Neptune* mail, postmarked at Paris at the beginning of the siege and arriving soon after that balloon's departure, is so difficult to find. Actually, no such letter has yet been definitely characterized as a *Neptune*. All are probably part of the rare mail smuggled by three post-office employees who succeeded on 20 and 21 September in crossing to the outside of the German siege line around Paris, Simon-Charles Létoile, Armand Brare, and Charles-Cyrille Gême.

The other bit of information in the *Neptune* note is that the writer gave his *Union* note to someone before he left the courtyard of the gasometers at the La Villette Gasworks. He did not know what its recipient had done with it. Clearly, that person had directly or indirectly passed the *Union* note on to one of the Aérostats, if not to Duruof personally. (In view of the fact that Duruof's job was observing the enemy from his balloon, it is unlikely, however, that he was present at the abortive inflation of the *Union*.) - Monsieur de Croisilles

evidently received both notes at the same time, at the cost of 30 centimes postage due for each.

A casual observer, seeing both notes on the same exhibit page at a stamp show, would consider this to be padding of the exhibit. After all, same writer, same addressee, same balloon - isn't that equivalent to two FDCs sent by the same writer to the same address? The exhibitor, having read the datelines in both notes as well as being familiar with the history of Paris siege balloons, should explain that one is the unique *Union* note and the other a very rare *Neptune* note, neither sent for philatelic reasons: Philatelic covers have existed since 1840, but they carry postage stamps, as prettily arranged as possible, not ugly postage due notices. Even though these two covers can't compete financially with the 1-¢ British Guiana, they have the advantage of being undoubtedly genuine, a property that has come to be given more importance at recent philatelic shows.

Speaking of authenticity of philatelic material leads me to PO MO 994.42, mentioned in that same note of the Musée. It is one of the new-fangled post-cards, authorized for use on balloon mail by one of two decrees of 26 September, published the next day in the *Journal officiel*. This card bears the marking *Trouvée à La Courneuve le 10 octobre 1870*, a bogus marking as described in Amazing #4 and for which detailed proof is given in Amazing #79.

When I explained all that to the Musée, I was told by its then directress that the matter was being submitted to two French philatelic experts. Neither the Musée nor one of these experts has ever followed up on my questions of 1995. French specialty catalogues still list this (now unpriced) bogus mark, despite the fact that the proof of its nature has been published in French years ago. No warning about its bogus nature is given. Apparently any dealer is free to sell it if he can find a patsy. Were the experts too busy to read about the facts?

At least the writer about new acquisitions for the Musée reads, though it seems to confuse him. He mentions (under PO MO 994.43) their getting a *Gazette des Absents* postmarked on 26 November, flown by the *Jacquard*. He says (in French) that 'this balloon was lost at sea near the Scilly Islands in the southwest of England near Falmouth ... [It carries] a transit mark of Falmouth for 3 December.

Of course, the Scillies are quite a distance west of Cornwall, but one bag of that balloon's mail was, in fact, found there - only that was on 20 December, about three weeks after the disaster. When I published this information for the first time, I had a map and gave dates. The information has been copied repeatedly, including French versions, some going so far as to speak of 'Scilly Islands' (as this writer did), perhaps not knowing that they are called *Les Sorlingues* in French. Reading postal releases can be as funny as spotting errors on stamp designs.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q. 04.1.** Information requested on when was the last day that French-issued stamps were used in Fezzan before Libya took control of the postal facilities. The Kingdom of Libya was proclaimed in December 1951. Was there a transition period during which the French issues continued to be used? Also, did French troops staying on in Fezzan continue to use French Fezzan stamps until their departure at end of 1956 (or perhaps earlier)? (RMcG).

THE CARNET CORNER

by Bob Seeke (FCPS #1334)

REPertoire FRANC.K: des carnets de timbres-poste d'usage courant en nouveau francs et en euros; from Dallay S.A.R.L., 31 rue des Bourdonnais, F-75001 Paris, and from other sources. 96 pages soft bound, 6" x 9". Editions Dallay, 2002; 14.90€ plus postage.

This is a very useful entry in the limited literature available on French booklets issued since 1960. All booklets are listed using the author's particular numbering system. This system is a bit cumbersome: for instance, the 2.10F Liberté booklet of 10 with red cover is listed as C 21F-1-c4GT. This translates as follows: C=carnet, 21F=the face value, 1=the first carnet of this value, c4=confectionneuse 4 (cover's printer) and GT=gomme tropicale (tropical gum). There are separate catalog numbers assigned to the booklet that have different *confectionneuse* numbers, as well as for those with normal gum.

All booklet covers are illustrated, and the stamps within them. Also listed are numerous varieties, such as missing phosphor bars, perforations reversed, different reactions of the papers to UV light, etc. Your columnist learned of a variety he didn't know existed, and was very glad to be reminded that there is always something new to learn.

The author's pricing scheme is different from any other: instead of an absolute value for an item, he assigns a price range, such as A = *courant* (the lowest price), B = 7.5-15€, C-16-30€, up to H=750-1500€ and RRR=very rare. The author cross-references his numbers with those in the Dallay catalog, and includes a separate page which can be used as a check-list or want list page. The table of contents is conveniently located on the back cover, as with the Dallay catalog.

The color illustrations are very good, although in a few cases the colors are not accurate. There is much useful information in the "Definitions" section at the beginning. The text is in French--easy to follow for the individual listings, but a knowledge of French is vital for the Definitions section (or a translator, such as at altavista.com). Very few weaknesses and many strengths make this book a "must" addition to the serious carnet collector's library.

As usual, comments and correspondence are always welcome. Bob Seeke, 866 La Costa Lane, N. Fort Myers, FL 33917, or cwseeke@msn.com. Til next time, *bonne philatélie*.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

N° 273, JULY 2003, p. 70:

George Barker was kind enough to point out to the author of "Algerian Registered Mail 1844-1876" and to its editor that the rates for the Figure 5 cover were misinterpreted. The 1F rate is to be construed as 80c for a letter weighing 20-100 gm, plus 20c for the fixed money-letter fee. The insurance per 100F declared value was paid in cash, separately from the postage, as per Alexandre, *et al* (endnote 2 of article).

N° 274, October 2004, p. 123:

On the 1 June 2003 Tariff Rates table, footnote 2 regarding the three classes of registered service may not be completely correct. R1's maximum indemnity is merely 8 euros and it is handled as "observed mail." Maximum indemnity for R2 and R3 is, respectively, 153 and 458 euros, and this mail receives more respectful attention and travels in special red mailbags.

FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST

Index to Volume 59 (2003)

Stanley J. Luft, compiler

PREFACE

The following numbers of the Journal are included in the present Index:

Vol. 59, N° 1 (Whole Number 271), January 2003	
N° 2	272), April 2003
N° 3	273), July 2003
N° 4	274), October 2003

All citations in the Index are given as Whole Number, hyphen, and page number. Suffixes used after the page number are n for short Notes and (Rev.) for book Reviews, as per predecessor indices.

SUBJECT INDEX

Air Posts -- Stamps, Services, Rates, Markings

Concorde o,46€ of 2002	271-29 <u>n</u>
French services, airlines, planes, pilots (1919-39)	271-26(Rev.)

Algeria

Beni Amran renamed Mal. Pétain in 1942	273-91 <u>n</u>
Registered mail, 1844-1876	273-67

Alsace-Lorraine

Detoured mail, 1870-on	272-35
MIRECOURT 1870 handstamp	271-23

Andorra

Hôtel Rosaleda o,46€ stamp of 2002	274-121 <u>n</u>
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Awards and Honors [also see Some Show Reports]

R. Kinsley named Northwest Fed. Distinguished Philatelist	271-28 <u>n</u>
A. Lawrence special award for an article	274-120 <u>n</u>
R. Stone named (posthumously) to APS Hall of Fame	273-91 <u>n</u>
R. Winter receives 2003 Lichtenstein Award	273-91 <u>n</u>

Balloon Post [see Siege of Paris]

Booklets and Booklet Stamps

New cover designs, 2003	274-121 <u>n</u>
-------------------------	------------------

Cameroun

2nd trial printing of 27.8.40 overprint	273-84
---	--------

Censorship, Censor Markings

St. Pierre & Miquelon, 1939-1945	271-7, 272-52
On outbound Swiss mail transiting France in WWII	274-118(Rev.)

Coil Stamps	
Marianne de Luquet in euros: #s on back of every stamp	271-29 <u>n</u>
Dahomey	
Bisects of 1920	273-73
Essays and Proofs	
Paris 1925 Deco Arts Expo issues, 1925	274-99
Marianne à la Nef (1959-60)	274-117(Rev.)
Marianne de Dulac 100F revenue stamp	274-116
1939 semi-postals	274-117
New Caledonia: Cagou bird projects of 2002	274-116
Etiquettes, Vignettes and Labels	
World War II LVF productions	274-121 <u>n</u>
Expositions	
Paris 1925 Deco Arts issues, 1925	274-99
Forgeries, Fakes, Bogus Items	
New Caledonia: <i>Boite Mobile</i> markings	272-58 <u>n</u>
id., fabricated Vichy-era covers	273-92 <u>n</u>
St. Pierre & Miquelon: diagonal ovpt. on 1F Sage	271-29 <u>n</u>
Web site for advisories	271-23 <u>n</u>
WWII <i>Feldpost</i> cover	272-53
France: 19th Century Issues	
20c Lauré, earliest date of use	272-58 <u>n</u>
France: 20th Century Issues [also see individual issues, Types & Subtypes]	
Marianne à la Nef (definitive study)	274-117(Rev.)
Marianne de Dulac design, 100F revenue stamp	274-116
Paris 1925 Deco Arts Expo. Issues	274-99
Sarah Bernhardt semi-postal of 1945	274-120 <u>n</u>
Semi-postals of 1939	274-117
Winged Victory semi-postal, 1937	271-28 <u>n</u>
1F Iris, green and red values	273-76
France: 21st Century Issues [also see individual issues]	
Marianne de Luquet in euros: reengraved(?) legends	271-28 <u>n</u>
id., coils	271-29 <u>n</u>
id., color variations of 1,02€	273-93 <u>n</u>
id., color coding for green, red and blue "usages"	274-121 <u>n</u>
Missing phosphor bands on recent stamps	273-92 <u>n</u>
"Personalized" stamps	274-120 <u>n</u>
Franco-German War of 1870-71 [also see Siege of Paris, Alsace-Lorraine]	
A cover to England	274-114
Detoured Alsace-Lorraine mail	272-35
German POWs in Paris	271-21
French Colonies, Dependencies and Overseas Territories [also see individual Colonies]	
Cameroun: 2nd trial printing of 27.8.40 overprint	273-84

Dahomey: Bisects of 1920	273-73
French Guiana: Port Inini	271-28 <u>n</u> , 273-90 <u>n</u>
Gabon: Canoe mail service, WWII	271-27
id., Design source for 1910 issues	271-19
Guadeloupe: Overprints of 1889-90	273-91 <u>n</u>
id., Stamp shortages, 1900-01	273-90 <u>n</u>
Indo-China: Garnier and Mekong River expedition, 1866-68	273-74
New Caledonia: <i>Boite Mobile</i> markings are faked	272-58 <u>n</u>
id., Cagou bird 2002 projects	274-116
id., Fabricated Vichy-era covers	273-92 <u>n</u>
id., Horseback mail service, end of	274-121 <u>n</u>
Réunion: Retirement of last rural pedestrian carrier	272-59 <u>n</u>
St. Pierre & Miquelon: Censorship, 1939-45	271-7
Togo: 1921 "Mandate" issue, earliest dates	272-45
French Guiana	
Port Inini	271-28 <u>n</u> , 273-90 <u>n</u>
Gabon	
Canoe mail service, WWII	271-27
Design source for 1910 issues	271-19
Guadeloupe	
Overprints of 1889-90	273-91 <u>n</u>
Stamp shortages, 1900-01	273-90 <u>n</u>
Indo-China	
Garnier and Mekong River expedition, 1866-68	273-74
Internet Trading	
Web site re forgers and fakers	271-23 <u>n</u>
Machine Cancels [also see Postal Markings]	
Paris 1925 Deco Arts Expo slogans	274-102
Marianne de Luquet Issues	
Coil stamps	271-29 <u>n</u>
Color coding of euro issues	274-121 <u>n</u>
Color variations, 1,02€ value	273-93 <u>n</u>
Euro values, reengraved(?) legends	271-28 <u>n</u>
Maritime and Fluvial Posts	
Canoe mail service, Gabon	271-27
Pacific stations, 19th Century	273-83
River-boat service, Belgian Congo and Gabon	271-25, 272-52, 274-119 <u>n</u>
Memorials and Obituaries	
Bridoux, Charles	272-59 <u>n</u>
Durens, Claude	273-91 <u>n</u> , -92 <u>n</u>
Farcigny, Jean	272-58 <u>n</u>
Marsh, John O., Jr.	272-50
Marson, Lucio	271-29 <u>n</u>
Pittier, Raymond	272-47

Military Posts (incl. Occupations)--Post-World War II	
Military postal bureaus opened/closed during 2002	272-50
Military Posts -- 21st Century	
BPM 242, Tadjikstan	271-28 <u>n</u>
BPMs become BPIs, January 2003	273-93 <u>n</u>
French naval operations off Afghanistan, 2002	271-28 <u>n</u>
Replacement of POSTE AUX ARMÉES markings, 2002	271-28 <u>n</u>
Naval Mail and Markings	
Pacific stations, 19th Century	273-83
New Caledonia	
<i>Boite Mobile</i> markings are faked	272-58 <u>n</u>
Cagou bird 2002 design projects	274-116
Fabricated Vichy-era covers	273-92 <u>n</u>
Horseback mail service, end of	274-121 <u>n</u>
Overprints and Surcharges	
Guadeloupe: on 1c and 1F values, 1889-90	273-91 <u>n</u>
St. Pierre & Miquelon: probable fake on 1F Sage	271-29 <u>n</u>
Paris [see Postal Markings, Siege of...]	
Paris Commune (1871)	
Unmanned balloon post	273-87
Phosphorescent Tagging	
Missing phosphor bands on recent issues	273-92 <u>n</u>
Postal Markings [also see individual Colonies, Military Posts, Franco-German War, Machine Cancels, etc.]	
Ambulants (general study)	271-3
Earliest 1860 dates for Sardinian markings on French stamps	273-91 <u>n</u>
Lyon PC 1817 killer	274-117 <u>n</u>
MIRECOURT (Vosges) 1870-71 marking	271-23
PAR PIROGUE POSTALE (Gabon, WWII)	271-27
Paris district office date stamps, Sage period, new dates	272-61, 274-111
Railway station markings (general study)	274-103
Postal Rates and Tariffs	
Calculating postal-route distances, 1792-1800	271-27
Registered mail, Algeria, 1844-76	273-67
1 June 2003 rates	274-123
Postal Services	
Electronic registered mail	271-29 <u>n</u>
La Poste offers free postcard mailings	271-29 <u>n</u>
Postal Stationery	
CASSETTEPOSTE (issued 1984)	274-119 <u>n</u>

Precancelled Stamps

Variations of 1,87€ Flower under UV light 273-93n

Railway Mail and Markings

Ambulant markings (general study) 271-3, 272-51

Courrier-convoyeur markings (general study) 272-41

Railway station (*gares*) markings (general study) 274-103

Registry, Registered Mail

Algeria, 1844-1876 273-67

Réunion

Retirement of last rural pedestrian carrier 272-59n

Revenue Stamps

Marianne de Dulac 100F essay 274-116

Reviews of Books, Pamphlets and Catalogs

Dallay catalogue 274-110

"La Poste Aérienne Française", v. III, publ. by *Revue Icare* 271-26

LaBlonde, "World War II mail fr. Switzerland..." 274-118

Trassaert, "La Marianne à la Nef" [CD-ROM] 274-117

Verner, "Mail of the Czechoslovak Legions in France" 272-55

Sage Issues

Paris district office date stamps, new dates 272-61, 274-111

5c yellow-green, earliest 1898 date 274-113

St. Pierre & Miquelon

Censorship, 1939-1945 271-7, 272-52

Siege of Paris [also see Franco-German War]

Balloon fallacies, fantasies and misconceptions 273-80

Entrusted mail, via Msgr. Chigi 274-107

"*Neptune*" cover 271-1

"*Piper 1*" mail 274-107

Wm. J. Brown correspondence 273-79

Stamp Designs [also see Essays and Proofs]

Concorde o,46€ of 2002 271-29n

FCPS member Angleviel designs New Caledonia and
Wallis & Futuna 2003 stamps 273-92n

Gabon: Design source for 1910 issues 271-19

Grand Prix for Philatelic Art, 2002 272-58n

Togo

1821 "Mandate" issue, earliest dates 272-45

Types and Subtypes

50c Jeanne d'Arc, 50c Fachi Woman, 90c Berthelot 274-110

Vietnam

Revenues (to be collected on document) 271-28n

World War I

Mail of the Czech Legions in France	272-55(Rev.)
Unofficial franchise letter-card	273-86

World War II

LVF etiquettes	274-121 <u>n</u>
Outbound Swiss mail, through France	274-118(Rev.)
St. Pierre & Miquelon, censorship	271-7, 272-52

INDEX TO F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL & REGULAR FEATURES

Announcements and News	271-28, 272-58, 273-77, 274-119
Corresponding Secretary's Report for 2002	272-62
Editorials	271-22, 272-54, 273-77, 274-112
For the Record	
Nos. 831-832	271-27
Nos. 833-835	273-90
Nos. 836-839	274-116
Goofs on Stamps	273-78
Letters to Editor	273-73, 274-110
Membership Changes	271-32, 272-63, 273-96, 274-127
New Books, Pamphlets and Catalogues	271-26, 272-56, 273-89, 274-124
New Issues and Withdrawals	271-29, 272-59, 273-93, 274-124
President's Letter	271-31, 272-62, 273-95, 274-127
Questions and Answers	271-25, 272-52, 274-115
Some New and Recent Web Sites	271-24
Some Show Reports	271-31, 273-82, 274-114
Suggestions to Authors	272-54
Treasurer's Report for 2002	272-62

INDEX TO AUTHORS

Allen, D. J. , "Postal Censorship in St. Pierre & Miquelon 1939-1945"	271-7
Bentley, Ron , "Mekong River Expedition"	273-74
Bratzel, M. P., Jr. , "Cameroun 27.8.40 - the 2nd trial printing"	273-84
Broadhead, T. W. , "Postal Issues of the 1925 Paris Deco Arts Expo. - I: Prelude	274-99
Bowden, Godfrey , "More New Dates for Paris District Office date stamps..."	274-111

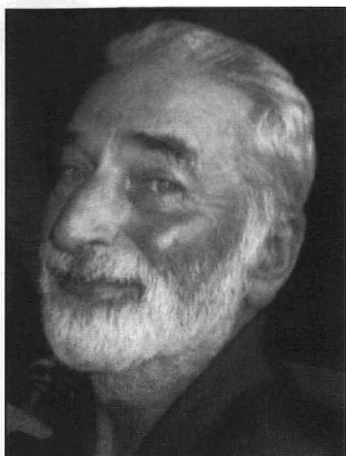
id., "A new earliest date for the 5c yellow-green Sage of 1898"	274-113
Cohn, E. M. , "Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories --"	73 (271-21), 75 (272-48)
	77 (273-80), 79 (274-107)
id., "Farewell to Raymond Pittier"	272-47
Johnson, R. I. , "A Franco-British cover of the 1870-71 War"	274-114
Kinsley, R. T. , "French Marcophily - Mail by Rail	271-3, 272-41, 274-103
Lawrence, Ashley , "Siege of Paris Correspondence of W. J. Brown"	273-79
Luft, S. J. , "Balloon Post of the 1871 Paris Commune"	273-87
id., "Detoured Alsace-Lorraine mail - 1870 and beyond"	272-35
id., "A 'Fabricated' Cover"	272-53
id., " <i>Mers du Sud</i> and <i>Mers de Chine</i> "	273-83
id., Memorial to John O. Marsh, Jr.	272-50
id., "1F Iris - The Green and the Red"	273-76
id., Book Reviews	272-56, 274-117
Mitchell, W. G. (Bill) , "Dahomey: The Bisects of 1920"	273-73
id., "Gabon - A design Source for the 1910 issues"	271-19
id., "Togo - the 1921 Mandate issue: Earliest recorded dates..."	272-45
Nilsestuen, K. R. , "Algerian Registered Mail 1844-1876"	273-67
Shumsky, A. D. , "A Message from the Front"	273-86
Tyler, M. S. , Book Review	271-26
Warren, Alan , Book Review	274-118
Wilson, R. G. , "Paris District Office Date Stamps - New Earlier and Later Dates on Sage-period Stamps	272-61

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JEAN-LUC TRASSAERT (1934-2003) - AN APPRECIATION

My very dear friend, Dr. Jean-Luc Trassaert, born 17 January 1934, lost his long and painful struggle with cancer on September 11, 2003.

Jean-Luc, a retired Peugeot engineer, was what is so often a misapplied term, "a Renaissance Man." A major philatelic figure as an indefatigable researcher, writer, collector and exhibitor, he was also most knowledgeable about music, art, architecture and philosophy, and a friend to many. He may be best remembered for his published studies in handbooks, two CD-ROMS and innumerable articles on modern French definitive stamps, including the Marianne de Muller, à la Nef, de Décaris, de Béquet, de Cheffer. But there is also so much more that he has taught us, on such diverse subjects as the Palissy and other



etiquettes, Code Postal booklets, biographical sketches of stamp designers and engravers, and enlightened us as well on otherwise obscure subjects such as mail for the blind, "hors sac" mail, etc. He also brought to the attention of his French readers the stories of U. S. Transportation coils and other commonly used U.S. stamps and precancelled stamps of recent vintage. It was my great pleasure and privilege to furnish him with "junk mail" covers to illustrate his articles.

But above all, my wife and I wish to remember him and his lovely wife Françoise for their warm and most gracious hospitality whenever we were "nearby" in France. Their exquisite taste for the good things translated into great gourmet meals at their lovely homes, first near Montbéliard and later in sunnier and warmer Dordogne.

Jean-Luc, whom I have known ever since PhilexFrance 82, was a corresponding (*i.e.*, out-of-town) member of the Académie de Philatélie, a member of both the U.S. and British France & Colonies Philatelic Societies, and other societies. This most amiable and erudite man, the foremost expert on modern French definitives--and much more--is now no more. This is an immense and irreplaceable loss to philately, to my wife and myself, and above all to Françoise Trassaert and their children.

-- S. J. Luft

TYPES AND SUBTYPES

40c Paix of Laurens

Type I: Lower bar of **R** of FRANCAISE is thinner than rest of letter and may be very thin; horizontal bar of **4** of value is stubby at left. On sheet stamps and most imprinted postal cards.

Type II: Lower bar of the **R** of same thickness as rest of letter; **4** as per Type I. On coil stamps. (And, of course, the vertical perforations are machine cut and parallel to each other).

Type III: Horizontal bar of the **R** somewhat more pointy at left; **c** of value thinner than in Types I and II. Only on some late-printed (1937) postal cards.



WE GET LETTERS

We've received two more fan letters for the Dallay catalogue, the first three having been summarized earlier. Bob Seeke (our Carnet Corner-iste) commends it for higher quality glossy and thicker paper, with pages taking longer to fall out. There are more details per stamp, including such varieties as misperfs, splices, etc. that are lacking in Yvert and Cérès. The section on booklets also lists more varieties than the other catalogs. More space is devoted to *coins datés* and *millésimes* than in Yvert. If given a choice of having only one French catalog, Bob would opt for the Dallay.

Michael Meadowcroft writes from the UK, saying he makes good use of both the printed version and the CD-ROM. He likes the general approach and presentation, considers the Dallay an excellent production that includes a number of unissued stamps and other items that do not appear in the other catalogs. The CD-ROM is particularly useful when travelling with a laptop, and as a source of images when making up album pages.

There you have it! The Dallay catalogue has made its mark and appears to be at least the equal of, if not superior to, the better known catalogs. And we'll let the matter rest for now.

Raymond McGarrity wrote asking for information on what would have been the last day that French-issued stamps were used in Fezzan before Libya took control of its postal facilities. Mario and Toni Caldiron's book doesn't give this information. A July 1964 article by Marvin Taub in *The American Philatelist* indicates that the stamps were in use until 15 April 1952 and that French postmarks were used into that October. But, with the last French unit not leaving until after November 1956(?), and with only an embryonic postal system in the new Kingdom of Libya, it seems plausible that French Fezzan issues would have been in use beyond April 1952. Would anyone have a reliable source of information on this subject? Ray and your Editor would really want to know! Thanks in advance.

SOME SHOW REPORTS

(Continued from N° 274, October 2003, p. 115)

- BALPEX 2003 (Hunt Valley, MD, August 2003): Gold medal to Chuck LaBlonde for his exhibit of Swiss WWII mail.
- PIPEX 2003 (Eugene, OR, August): Silver medal to Bob Kinsley for "Spanish Civil War Refugees in France."
- Omaha Stamp Show 2003 (Omaha, August-September): Gold medals to Eliot Landau for two U.S. exhibits; Silver-bronze medal to recent new member Louis Rediger for "When the Flamme became Literate"; your Editor served on the jury.
- MILCOPEX 2003 (Milwaukee, September): Reserve Grand Award and Gold medal to Eliot Landau for his U.S. Registry system exhibit; another Gold to

Eliot for his U.S. 5¢ Lincoln exhibit; two single-frame Gold medals to Eliot for more Lincoln stuff. That's four for E. Landau, Esq.; about his quota when shows run short of exhibits and personnel, and we trust those shows are highly appreciative!

- APEX 2003 (Aurora, CO, September): Local-show Gold medal to first-time exhibitor Dr. John Bloor for his one-frame exhibit on the Guynemer airmail etiquette! Your Editor served on this jury.
- Philadelphia National Stamp Exhib. 2003 (King of Prussia, PA, September): Vermeil medal to Steve Washburne for "Portuguese Postal Cards."
- SESCOAL 2003 (Los Angeles, October): A single-frame Vermeil medal to Dickson Preston for "Ben and George Ride Again"; multi-frame Silver medals to Preston for another US 20th Century exhibit and to Jim Taylor for "St. Pierre Miquelon 1871-1938."

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

- *Catalogue des Entiers "Prêt-à-Poster" de France et de Monaco*, by Jean Storch, Bertrand Sinais and Agnès Monottoli; (2004), 490 pp., ca. 900 color illustrations, ca. 1500 items listed and priced; 50 euros (+ 5 euros postage and handling in France and the EU, more elsewhere), from Editions Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris. (The first priced catalog of prestamped, "ready-to-mail" stationery of France and Monaco).
- *Le Chemin de Fer et la Poste Ferroviaire en Charente Inférieure de l'origine à 1904* [Railways and railway post in the Charente Inf. Dept., to 1904], by Gérard Gauduchon; contact the author at Le Bois du Four, F-17870 Breuil-Magne, France.
- *Catalogue Yvert & Tellier* 2004, tome 1: France, 656 pp., card cover, all illustrations in color; + CD-ROM Windows and Mac-compatible, in French and English; 19,90 euros (plus postage) [this is a real special bargain price!]. Tome lbis: Monaco, Andorra, DOM-TOM, Europa, UN, 704 pp., card cover, full color; 19,90 euros (+ postage). From publisher at 37 rue des Jacobins, F-80036 Amiens Cedex 1, France [e-mail<mail@yvert.com>, fax +33.3.22.71.71.89] or your usual sources.
- *Timbres de Monaco*, CD-ROM in French and English, (2003); covers all issues in detail from 1885 to July 2002; 19 euros (+ postage), from Yvert & Tellier (see above).
- *Inland Routing Markings of Japan in the 1870's*, by Matsumoto Jun Ichi; June 2003 Suppl. to *Japanese Philately*, v. 58, No. 2; published as Monograph 15 by the International Society for Japanese Philately, Inc.; 40 pp., 8½x11", illustrated; \$12 (US) postpaid worldwide, + \$5 by airmail; from the above-named society at 815 Springingsuth Road, Schaumburg, IL 61093-3329, USA. (A very detailed study, by the foremost expert on the French post offices in Japan, of mail handling and of postal and Japanese-language inland markings from and to the French military missions in 19th Century Japan, and from and to other French and foreign residents; for specialists in this very narrow field).
- *Jean de Sperati, l'homme qui copiait les timbres*, by Lucette Blanc-Girardet; 127 pp., horizontal format 25 x 21.5 cm; illustrated in color; 35 euros (+postage abroad?), from Editions Pachaft, 15 impasse du Marais, F-73100 Moux, France. (A documented, non-philatelic account of the life and works of the master philatelic forger; should interest owners of some of his creations).

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from N° 274, October 2003, p. 117)

- **840.)** UPU members decided in October 1920 to make the **minimum tax** (*minimum de perception*) on short-paid international letters equal to 30 centimes in gold francs, effective early 1921. France complied by raising its minimum tax to 30c on 1 April 1921 which, at the same time, became the postage for international postcards. The minimum (and the card rate) were increased to 45c on 1 April 1924. However, thereafter (16 July 1925-1 February 1942), the minimum tax failed to keep up with international card rates. It appears that, from 1 January 1940 to 30 June 1957, the minimum tax was equal to the first weight band for international printed matter. There seems to be little or no correlation between the minimum tax and card or other rates ever since June 1957, but we would like to hear from readers who have more precise information. (Sources: Alexandre, *et al*, *Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969*; later rate schedules from La Poste; Guy Prugnon, in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, February 2002).

This minimum tax was applied only to international mail and should not be confused with the domestic-mail *taxe simple*. The latter tax, on unstamped mail from official sources, cost the recipient only the amount of absent postage rather than double the unpaid amount.

- **841.)** If **840.** above, is not confusing enough, figuring out other short-paid taxation **not subject** to the minimum tax may require exacting knowledge of high finances -- something that ordinary postal clerks generally lacked. The important thing to remember when you start (if you indeed wish to start) is that the "current" franc was equal to the gold franc only to World War I. Thereafter, devaluation left the "current" franc ever farther behind, and you may have to resort to poring through long-ago financial pages.
- **842.)** Our member, Robert Abensur (and President of the Académie de Philatélie) reminds us via documentation and illustrations of covers, in *Documents Philatéliques* N° 175, 2003, that although registered mail must be prepaid, correct franking was not always correctly applied by senders or post office clerks. In the case of international registered letters, the following penalties for postage due (if any) were applied, as voted upon by the various UPU Congresses:

effective 1 January 1876: no taxation

effective 1 January 1922 (Madrid 1920 Congress): double the underpayment

effective 1 January 1935 (Cairo 1934 Congress): only the underpayment

effective 1 January 1976 (Lausanne 1974 Congress): no taxation.

- **843.)** The status of the Arc de Triomphe sets (Scott 2N1-20, Yvert 620-29, 702-11) (Figure 1) should be settled once and for all by an article by Annette Apaïre and Bertrand Sinais in *Timbres Magazine* for September 2002. Using unique documents in Sinais' possession and quoting from a 1961 letter by Pierre Mendès-France, the authors show that the design was approved in Washington by De Gaulle's personal emissary, Jean Monnet, on 24 February 1944. That day, the U.S. agreed that the stamps, which were ready to be printed in Washington by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, would be sold solely by the French posts, as portions of France were to be liberated by the Allies. The first printed stamps were also accepted by Felix Gouin, President of the Provisional Government in Algiers, when the first examples were submitted to him.



Figure 1.

The first shipment to France was brought from England to Carenton, Normandy as early as 11 September 1944, that date being the earliest one of use. A compelling reason for ready acceptance by the French was that the other non-Vichy stamps available, mainly the Coq and Marianne d'Alger, could not be produced in Algiers in sufficient quantities to replace their Petain counterparts. Even though the Arc de Triomphe stamps had been conceived in the U.S. as "occupation stamps," that onus had long dissipated by the time they were first placed in use. Therefore, they should no longer be listed as such in the Scott Catalog but rather, as per Yvert, in the regular section on French postage.

- 844.) As part of a longer, well-illustrated article in *Documents Philatéliques* (N° 176, 2003) on postal control of exported monies, from the start of the Second World War and extending on occasion into the present, Laurent Bonnefoy points out that, during that war, collectors could not only not send stamps out of France but were also prohibited from overfranking the postage on mail going abroad. Such mail was to be returned to sender, usually after having been opened by customs. Figure 2 (Figure 11 of the article) shows a 1942 Vichy registered mailing, bearing 14F (+38F surtax) in blocks of four, easily overpaying the 8F rate. Such seizures continued off and on well after the war and until the present, whenever the contents are not clearly stated (nowadays on green Douane stickers).



Figure 2.

- 845.) Who applied the PAQUEBOT marking on frequently seen, mainly pre-World War II maritime mail (Figure 3)? A passenger or crewman, writ-

ing aboard, would use his/her own stamps or purchase them from the ship's purser. In the latter case, the stamps would be of the same nationality as the ship. At the first subsequent port of call, the mail would be brought ashore and be cancelled and serviced by that port's national postal system. So as to explain the handling and canceling by Country Y of mail bearing stamps of Country X, PAQUEBOT or similar language would be marked on the letters' fronts. This also served as an excuse for ignorance should the letter be underfranked, in which case postage due was generally marked and collected at destination.



Figure 3. Two of the many types of PAQUEBOT markings. Top: 1939 British machine slogan cancel on letter with a Swiss return address but with French stamp affixed (surely in France), and addressed to the U.S. Bottom: 1913 French "collared" Toulon date stamp on British stamp, on letter to Australia. (reduced to 75%)

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

Once again, we are making a request for like-minded members to band together and form study groups for the study and dissemination of information on subject seemingly mundane to terribly esoteric. Your editor will be happy to help you get started (if he knows of the right bodies), and equally happy to help you write an article.

While on the subject of writing, I continue to be amazed, nay dismayed, by the general absence of "Questions and Answers" (both!) and letters of general interest to the readership. (I try hard to avoid publishing the ones that say what a wonderful job I'm doing...) What, no Questions? Nor Answers to others' questions? No letters for the good of the order? Not even a Member's Appeal? Come on, they don't cost anything but a bit of your time. This is a society of fellow collectors; do speak to one another!

This really should appear as a semi-regular reminder to readers and as an advisory to new members. In "New Issues and Withdrawals" under France, the first date is that of First Day ceremonies, and the second, in () is that of official sale at post offices.

I heartily second President Dick Stevens' request for donations to our Society (page 31) which, of course, would help defray the ever-rising cost of producing and mailing our *Philatelist*, hopefully without recourse to a dues increase. Just think that, were we flooded with extra income (as are some other societies), we could print more pages and more articles, perhaps even fantasize about the (judicious, let's not get carried away) use of color illustrations. What a classy journal we might have. A real keeper!

Now this is important. Though it sometimes seems hard to believe, the Scott Catalog people are really interested in improving their product. Though their particular focus lies in updating catalog values, they are also receptive to corrections of inaccurate information and descriptions, expanded footnotes, etc. Please send your suggestions for improvements to our liaison with Scott's publishers, E. E. (Gene) Fricks, at 26 Windmill Drive, Clementon, NJ 08021-5821, USA; genefricks@prodigy.net

Articles to be published in future issues

Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories (continued)

Goofs On Stamps

1F Empire

Discovery of another, more recent scraped date stamp from Cochín-China

On distinguishing Cérès-head issues of the Classic Period

The boxed *Corr. des armées*. marking

French Polynesia – the end of Official Stamps

Postal Censorship and Control during World War II – Cameroun and St.

Pierre & Miquelon

An unusual item of French Postal Stationery

The First French Air Force

A Pierrais soldier writes home (1944-45)

The "Faux Petain"

Senegal – Dating a World War II cover

The Valenciennes Local Post of 1914

Postal Training School Stamps and Dummy Stamps

Another French Guiana design source

Phantom Postal History – Cyprus 1940

Jerusalem – The Early French Post offices

[Hopefully something for everybody!]

REVIEWS

Caractéristiques des correspondances du Brésil pour la France au XIX siècle [Characteristics of Brazilian mail to France during the XIX Century, by Philippe Jean Damien and Klerman Wanderley Lopes; 2003; ISBN 85-903499-1-8; 7 x 9", card covers, sewn signatures, numerous black-and-white illustrations; vol. I (pre-1860), 155 pp; vol. II (1860-on), 249 pp.; in French and Portuguese in parallel columns; the two volumes at \$40 (US) + postage, from Dr. Klerman W. Lopes, Rua Constante Ramos 34, #901, 22051 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; e-mail <klerman@uol.com.br>.

The emphasis of this monumental study of 19th Century maritime mail from Brazil to (and through) France is placed, as it should, on detailed descriptions of covers in Dr. Lopes' collections and that of others and on auction items. As such, it delves deeply into French entry markings and inland rates to destination, charges levied upon the French posts by Great Britain, and the exchange markings of those two nations.

Pre-1860 volume I's 155 pages include a short Glossary and three pages of pertinent Bibliography. For lack of any postal convention prior to 1860, Brazilian mail generally traveled via British ships. The far scarcer transit via French packets received, upon arrival in France, the extra-continental COLONIES PAR..., the later PAYS D'OUTREMER PAR..., the still later circular OUTREMEMER, and finally the date stamps of shipping-line agencies. Rates were generally exorbitant, and commonly avoided or mitigated through the user of agents or forwarders in the British Isles. In the case of early letters, dues markings are usually only the inland ones to final destination. Rates are nicely detailed in various Tables. In Table 1, the authors assign dates and number of Brazilian covers reported, for each of the French ports of entry and their markings: from 2-3 known for Caen (in 1818 only) to over 50 for such as Le Havre, Nantes, Bordeaux and Marseille; an ideal way of showing comparative scarcity.

This study owes much to the pioneering and later works of Salles, Robertson, Tristant, Van der Linden, Bergier, V. Pothion, Chauvet and others. The Salles and V. d. Linden nomenclatures are used, and the authors make a point of noting that many markings were not known to Salles as being on mail with a Brazilian provenance. In the absence of Brazilian departure markings, such provenance can be proven only from interior datelines.

British packet mail received ANGLETERRE, then GRANDE BRETAGNE PAR..., and from 1843 boxed COLONIES & c. ART. 12 (later 13 and briefly 18), and finally circular ANGL. date stamps. Examples of all are shown on cover and described in detail. Exchange markings, which follow Salles and V. d. Linden, appeared January 1857. A brief Chapter 4 discusses transit via Portugal, Spain, Italy, Belgium and Germany. Volume 1 ends aptly at June 1860, when Brazil and France signed a postal convention.

The thicker Volume II also includes a similar three-page Bibliography but no glossary. Pages 229-249 give the complete French text of the 1860 Postal Convention, as signed by Napoleon III, and texts of official exchanges (in Portuguese only) of 1870-1871 that resulted in new 1871 rates. Starting at June 1860, it continues through the various accords and rate changes that occurred prior to 1900. Emphasis has now shifted to the French maritime lines (primarily the *Messageries Maritimes*), its 1860-1865 Ligne du Brésil (and Annex), and then the two lives of Lines J and K, with more than a passing nod to less well known contemporary shipping lines. Cachets now are primarily the octagonal date stamps of consular agencies (with "BRÉSIL," or other South American countries, at top), followed by the octagonal Lines and circular arrivals, and finally the circular Lines and Corr. D.Armées date stamps.

All this is examined in good to great detail, with information given on exceptional voyages such as shipwrecks, transfer of mail between ships, etc. A chapter is devoted to British lines that also carried 1860-on mails, and the resultant rates and French entry markings. Another, briefer one discusses mail transit through other European countries. Again, useful rate tables are included, followed by the authors' comments and explanations.

France entered into the GPU on 1 January 1876 and Brazil on 1 July 1877, which greatly simplified rates and taxes. The final 19th Century rate change took effect on 1 October 1881.

The black-and-white illustrations are clear to passable; most of them adequately show the important elements of covers illustrated: postal markings and postage due.

This is a major work, produced at an affordable price, and should be in the library of any collector of inbound French mail from, not only Brazil but also much of the rest of South America. It should also serve as a model for similar studies of markings and rates. It's definitely a "keeper". First author P. J. Damian died shortly before the volumes were published. Dr. Lopes is a member of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society.

-- S. J. Luft

Madagascar - Rail and Mail Services, by Colin W. Spong; (2003), ISBN 0-9526407-2-4; Indian Ocean Study Circle Handbook N° 10; vi + 102 pp., A4 format, card cover with plastic clasp, numerous black-and-white illustrations; \$25.00 (+ \$3.00 postage) from the Philatelic Bibliopole, P.O. Box 36006, Louisville, KY 40233, e-mail <Leonard@pbbooks.net>; also from Keith Fitton, 50 Firlands, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0HR, Gr. Britain, for £12 (postfree in the UK; + £2 postage within Europe by air or worldwide by surface mail; +£5 by air beyond Europe); cash with order.

This study, which is mainly limited to the 1896-1960 French colonial period, is meant to appeal to railway enthusiasts as well as to postal historians. It begins with a brief history of Madagascar and its outside contacts. The need to link the east coast port of Tamatave by rail with the capital of Tananarive in the rugged central highlands became immediately evident to the French conquerors.

This major engineering feat was planned and constructed in sections, first following southward along the Pangalanes Canal, which parallels the Indian Ocean coastline, then inland westward from Andevorante. After years of bickering, the French government agreed in 1900 to loan Governor-General Gallieni's military administration the funds to begin construction, planned and supervised by the Army Engineers. The narrow-gauge line, requiring the construction of numerous bridges and tunnels, was completed in 1913. The 369 km or so (authorities differ) distance between the two terminus cities could be traveled in 14 hours by steam, and later on in less than 9 hours by diesel-electric trains equipped with rubber-tired wheels.

Spong's study, most rewarding albeit somewhat disjointed and rather hard reading, is beautifully documented with references to the *Journal Officiel* and other contemporary and mainly primary sources. We learn about the principals involved, train schedules, ticket prices, number of laborers and their ethnic origin (Asians, Arabs, Italians, as well as natives and French), stations along the line, quantity of and types of rolling stock and outbuildings, etc. -- information only a real railroad buff would truly appreciate.

The philately first appears on page 26. Markings are described and dated, the earliest known rail marking date being 1908, first for the above-described T.C.E. line (Tananarive-Cote Est), then in shorter chapters for the several other pre-Independence lines that were built in later years. The Diego Suarez and Nossi-Bé rails are mentioned briefly. For the most part, postmarks consist of scalloped-edge *convoyeur* (train-compartment sorted) and double-circle station date stamps; straightline and administrative cachets also exist. The

listings appear exhaustive. How the mail was handled is very well covered by quotes (in English translation) from numerous official decisions, decrees and orders. The author is well aware of the fact that some information remains unavailable to him and his collaborators, and points out problem areas that others might be able to resolve.

Pages 68-72 show and describe in detail Madagascar trains and tracks on Stamps. A detailed bibliography fills pages 73-76. This is followed by seven useful Appendices on the subjects of postal markings (with repetition from the mail text), various *minutia*, surface and airmail rates -- mainly from other published sources. The final two cover controversies regarding *Boite Mobile* service and handstamps. A page of Acknowledgements precedes the study.

Illustrations of postal and administrative markings and covers are generally adequately reproduced and most are reasonably legible. Period to more modern photographs add to the enjoyment of the narrative. The author had to make use of a very inferior-quality locality map; purchasers may consider the possibility of tipping-in a better one in page vi. The clasp cover makes it impossible for pages to lie flat; frequent users should consider replacing it and punching holes for a ring binder. Organization of the main body of the study could be improved; I had to do a fair amount of flipping pages back and forth, and sometimes lost track of the flow.

This is a fully documented, comprehensive and exhaustive labor of love by a man who has dedicated many years to the unraveling and understanding of Madagascar's postal history. In spite of its obvious faults, it is well worth its low price. Both railroad buffs and railway-mail enthusiasts will profit from this handbook.

-- S. J. Luft

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- Ian McQueen gave our Journal and its authors high marks, in the August 2003 *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*. Sure hope it brings us additional members. Thanks, Ian!
- Collared date stamps (Figure 1) on early 20th Century French Colonial stamps and covers can make for a very attractive collecting sideline. Georges Mercier has given the following checklist of known usage from **Tunisia** in *Le Rekkas* #40 (2003): Ben Gardane (1919 use), Djerba (1919), Gabès (1920), Sfax (1919), Tunis RP (1919-1920), Zarzis (1919) and Kairouan (1933-quite possibly contrived). There should be more out there and can be reported through your Editor.
- More losses to our hobby... Pierre Lux, famed for his learned studies of French railway mail, Paris auxiliary stations mail, and so much more, died in June 2003. Jacques Guiraud-Darmais, reigning expert on the stamps of Monaco, followed in September 2003. A memorial to our member Jean-Luc Trassaert, who also died in September, can be seen in this issue.
- Can official government documents (local to national) -- with or without affixed revenue stamps or their predecessor handstamps -- or perhaps even off-document revenue stamps -- be permitted to be owned by private collectors? The answer to this question remains somewhat obscure. In any event, it could be unwise to exhibit such material in France and face the potential risk of confiscation. The same could hold for such material of-



Figure 1.

ferred for sale in France. I may be a bit paranoid, but it would help if a more knowledgeable reader can set the matter straight.

- As a propaganda measure, Gen. Giraud's battle slogan "Un seul but: la Victoire" was plastered all over Allied-controlled North Africa early in 1943. By early March 1943, Gen. Chambre, in charge of information services, requested that the PTT directorate in Free-French Africa prepare fresh slogans for machine cancels. On 23 April, 16 Algerian post offices were provided with Daguin and other (R. B. V., Sylbe/Pondorf) slogan machine cancels reading "Un seul but: la Victoire" and/or "Je fais la guerre" (Figure 2).

Other post offices elsewhere received these cancels at later dates. In Algeria, their use was closely contemporaneous with the removal from sale of Petain-effigy stamps.

(Adapted from article by François Chauvin in *Timbres Magazine* for January 2003.

- Semi-postals honoring Great Men of France (Figure 3) were first issued and sold only in complete sets in 1943, a time when the surtax was well spent (we may assume) on charitable causes



Figure 2. Daguin-machine slogan "Je fais la guerre," posted 9 March 1944 from Bougie, Algeria (reduced copy).



Figure 3. Essays for the 1943 "Great Men" stamps-with surtax series (© Musée de la Poste, Paris).

during the Occupation. Since then, for political, regional, and other motives, it has devolved into honoring Celebrities and even fictional characters—in part from a dearth of additional, unrecognized-on-stamps Great Men (and Women). For whatever other reasons, the 1985-2000 sets have sold rather poorly and thus may become scarce and even somewhat valuable in coming years, should future demand exceed current supply. (Idea developed from article by Michel Melot in *Timbres Magazine*, January 2003).

- For those, such as myself, who chose to stop collecting French new issues upon the disappearance (after December 2001) of the Franc, an approximately equal number of new collectors have taken up the slack, according to France's direction of philatelic products.

- Booklet-cover publicity for "Les Trois Suisses," printed from the Paix de Laurens period into the 1960s (Figure 4) has nothing to do with Switzerland. It seems that the advertiser, a cloth manufacturer of Roubaix, adopted the name "Les Trois Suisses" of a nearby bistro, owned by a Monsieur Suis the

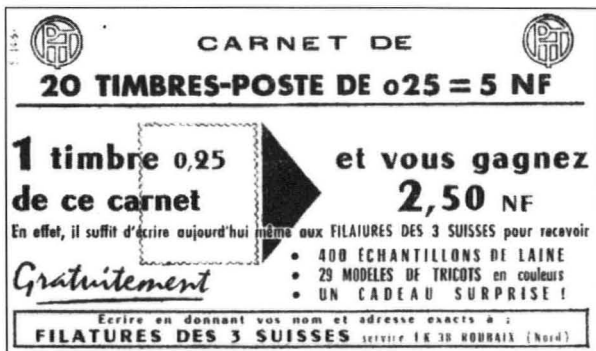


Figure 4. (reduced to 75%)

father of three daughters, hence the name. OK, this may sound facetious, but it was quite acceptable to P.J.M., writing in the March 2003 *Timbres Magazine*.

- The most attractive EUROPA 2003 (Poster Art theme) stamp, as selected by Post Europ, is Monte Carlo's 0,50€ value, based on a 1951 tourism poster by J.-G. Domergue (Figure 5), issued 5 May 2003.
- Faked FRANCE LIBRE / F.N.F.L. on St. Pierre & Miquelon stamps continue to plague the market. See For the Record N° 777 in the July 1999 FCP for recognition characteristics of this overprint (Figure 6).
- The very active Study Group for Airmail Rates in French Colonies to 1945, ably led by Bob Picirilli, now has almost 4,000 covers (with dates and rates) in the working data base, according to their Newsletter (Now up to N° 17). If you haven't done so previously,



Figure 5.

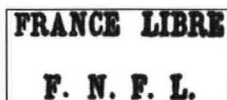


Figure 6.



Figure 7.

or since acquiring appropriate covers for the time span, please consider sending good photocopies (front, and back if helpful) to Bob, at 301 Greenway Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205, USA. Help advance our hobby!

- The no-face-value Liberté de Gandon "A" stamp (Figure 7) was printed in green on RGR presses between May and August 1986 and issued the latter month. An "A" in red (for fast service) was also printed on the RGR-2 press on 28 January 1986, but was **never issued**, as the rate remained at 2F20 until 1990. A pair of panes are retained in the Musée de la

Poste at Paris. (Thanks to Roger Verpoort, in *Opus 3*).

- There's another new blue-on-white cover for booklets of ten self-adhesive red Marianne de Luquet stamps (Figure 8), sold at 5€. This one promotes



Figure 8.

the sheetlet of ten regional stamps issued 20 (22) September 2003, and was probably released in late Summer 2003.

- Beginning in June 2003, and perhaps earlier, French meter-stamp markings have appeared in blue as well as the traditional red. Some even come bicolored red and blue.
- A wealth of archival (and current as well) material--though it may require some arduous searching--is available on-line from the Musée de la Poste at Paris, by logging onto <http://www.laposte.fr/musee/mu_corps.htm>.
- The stamp side of the new French "Marianne-Sower" booklet, noted in this issue's New Issues and Withdrawals as having been issued 6 (10) November 2003, is illustrated below (Figure 9). The booklet cover commemorates the centennial of Roty's lined sower.



Figure 9.

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 274, October 2003, p. 126)

France (all values expressed in € [euros])

- > 9 (10) September 2003: 0,50 Ahmad Shah Massoud (1953-2001) (assassinated northern Afghan chieftain);
- > 20 (22) September: 0,50 Arras (Pas-de-Calais Dept.); Regions -- France to Be Seen 15 euros sheetlet of ten stamps at 0,50 each;
- > 27 (29) September: Salon du Timbre 2004 (French gardens) sheetlet of ten at 1,90 each;
- > 11 (13) October: 0,50 Pontarlier (Doubs Dept.);
- > 18 (20) October: Council of Europe 0,50 and 0,75; Commercial and service vehicles, ten at 0,20 each in sheetlet of ten at 2,50 ("Collections for Youths");
- > 6-10 November 5€ booklet of ten self-adhesive stamps, five being regular Mariannes de Luquet, se-tenant with five 1903-style lined sowers of Roty; 6,60€ Red Cross booklet of ten at 0,50, showing Madonna and Child (extra 1,60 going to the Red Cross); 5€ Greetings booklet of self-adhesive 0,50 stamps (two designs: "generic" and bird with holly sprig);
- > 7-10 November: 2€ sheetlet of four stamps at 0,50 each on Luxembourg scenes (European Capitals theme);
- > 8-10 November: 1, 11 Art of Andy Warhol (Marilyn Monroe portrait).



Withdrawals: 12 September 2003: 0,75 Art of Jesus R. Soto; 0,46 Alex. Dumas; 0,46. D. Senghor; 0,46 Franco-German Treaty Anniv.; 0,46 Genevieve Anthonioz-De Gaulle; 0,46 40th anniv. of program to level regional economies; 10 October: 0,46 Metz Cathedral; 0,46 Locronon (Finistère); 0,46 Notre-Dame de la Salette; 4,36 sheetlet for great jazz musicians; 0,46 Paris Chamber of Commerce; 0,46 Lucky Luke; Birds of Overseas Terrs. (four values); 7 November: 0,46 Nantes (Loire-Atl.); 0,46 Pierre Bérégovoy; 21 November: 3F/0,46 and 3F80/0,56 Council of Europe.

Andorra (all values expressed in euros)

- > 8 August 2003: 0,58 World Track and Field Championships;
- > 15 September: 0,45 *Sparassis crispa* (fungus); 0,75 currants;
- > 30 October: 0,50 Cent. of Andorra's first telephone;
- > 1 December: 0,75 Paul Gauguin's "Maternity."

Withdrawals: 12 September 2003: 0,46 mytrille: 0,58 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics; 10 October: 0,41 bagpiper in tree; 1,02 Santa Coloma mural fragment; 7 November: 5F/0, 76 kitchen of General Council; 0,69 traffic-safety education in schools; 0,69 Pin de la Margineda legend.

French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF) (all values expressed in euros)

- > 31 July 2003: 100th Anniv. of departure of Charcot's "*Français*" triptych at 0,79, 1,22 and 2,44.

French Polynesia

- > 11 July 2003: Sailing canoes, four at 85F each;
- > 14 August: 130F walking on fire; 420F shells;
- > 11 September: 250F Cent. of Gauguin's death;
- > 4 October: 90F rose and 130F orchid.

Monaco:

- > 13 October: 0,50 Noël flower.

New Caledonia

- 26 June 2003: 100F Gauguin's "Man picking fruit from tree";
- 10 July: 100F Gov. Feillet (1857-1903); 100F 20th Anniv. of Aircalin (the local airline);
- 20 August: 100th Anniv. of death of Gauguin sheetlet of two 100F stamps (joint issue with Wallis & Futuna); 1400F booklet of 20 stamps at 70F, one pane of modern-design Cagou bird, other of 1903 Cagou ovpt. on Navigation and Commerce, both **crimped** (gaufre) **with New Caledonia nickel**;
- 9 October: dry-forest geckos in sheetlet of two at 30F and two at 70F, in se-tenant block; 110F view of Balade harbor in 1853; 105F German shepherd dog.

**St. Pierre & Miquelon** (all values expressed in euros)

- 8 August 2003: 0,50 A.S.S.P. (soccer);
- 11 September: 0,50 white-tailed deer.

Wallis & Futuna

- 28 July 2003: Legends of the Pacific 30, 50, 60, 70F + the four values in sheetlet at 210F; 100F Art of Paul Gauguin;
- 6 August: 115F the cascade of Futuna;
- 20 August: 100th Anniv. of death of Gauguin, sheetlet of two 100F stamps (joint issue with New Caledonia);
- 15 September: 325F frigate "*Le Nivôse*";
- 18 September: 205F Msgr. Alexandre Poncet;
- 1 October: 500F arms of Msgr. Bataillon;
- 10 October: 65 World Cup of Rugby.



F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I am pleased to inform you that David Herendeen of Las Vegas, Nevada, has agreed to be a candidate for president of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society at the election to be held this May. David is perhaps best known as a collector of postage due stamps. He is also the author of *The Parcel Post Stamps of the Ivory Coast*, which was awarded the Society's Gerard Gilbert Award for 2001. Note that the parcel post stamps of Ivory Coast are overprints on postage due stamps.

The Society has always been appreciative when a member has sent in a contribution, usually with his dues. To encourage such donations, we are taking two actions. First, we will be providing a line on the dues notices to add a contribution. Second, we will be publishing a list of donors in the Philatelist. The initial list will be in the April 2004 issue, together with the other reports for the year 2003. I feel I must point out that, under a ruling obtained from the I.R.S. some thirty years ago, the France & Colonies Philatelic Society is qualified as a tax-exempt organization, but has not been granted status as an organization which can receive tax-deductible contributions.

With my best wishes for the New Year.

— RMS

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting for the presentation of reports and election of officers will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4, 2004 at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th st., New York, NY.

NEW MEMBERS

- 3308 MENTRUM, BAYARD, 2858 N.W. Santanita Terrace, Portland, OR 97210. (General France: Mint-Used. 1849-1876 Classics: Mint - Used. 1870-1871 Issues. Alsace-Lorraine. Cancellations. Sage Type 1876-1900. Blanc, Mouchon & Merson Types. Sowers. Telegraph, Dues, Newspaper, Revenues, French Community: Offices Abroad, Andorre, Monaco. Colonies And General Issues: Mint - Used. Interested in Forgeries & Fakes).
- 3309 STIEBER, CONRAD, 2319 State St., Salem, OR 97301. (General France: Mint. Classics 1849-1876: Mint. Dues. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint. Sowers. Booklets. French Community: Offices Abroad. Colonies General - Issues: Mint. All Colonies & Territories: Mint Only Up Thru 1940).
- 3310 NGUYEN, CU, 9701 Thomas Avenue N., Minneapolis, MN 55444. (General France: Mint - Used. Classics 1849-1876: Mint-Used. 1870-1871 Issues. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint - Used. Air Mails. French Community: Offices Abroad. Monaco).
- 3311 HALL, DARRELL, 847 West 142nd Street Court, Apple Valley, MN 55124. (General Collector: All Issues. 19th Century. General France: Used. Postal History: Marques Postales - Military Posts - Railway Posts - Used Abroad. Dues. Cancellations. French Community: Offices Abroad - CFA Issues. Andorre. Monaco. Colonies General Issues: Used. Colonies Provisionals. All. Colonies and Territories. Philatelic Literature. Exchange).
- 3312 LILLJEDAHN, DALE, 4044 Williamsburg Road, Dallas, TX 75220-6327. (Topical Collector: 1924 Olympics (France, Lebanon, Syria).
- 3313 MOESER, PATRICIA, 140 Old Denville Road, Boonton Township, NJ 07005. (Postal History: Used Abroad. Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used - On Cover. 1870-1871 Issues. Proofs And Color Trial. Cancels And Postal History. St. Pierre And Miquelon. Part Time Dealer).
- 3314 McINTYRE, GORDON, 3047 16th Ave., West, Lower Apartment, Seattle, WA 98119. (19th Century. General Collector. General France Used. Classics 1849-1876. Cancellations. Philatelic Literature).
- 3315 NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA LIBRARY - CSAB, 344 Wellington Street, Room 256, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N3, Canada. (For Study and Research).
- 3316 DANG, TOM THUAT, P.O. Box 910281, San Diego, CA 92191-0281. (Topical: Light Houses - Bridges. General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Marques Postales - Military Posts. Classics: 1849-1876. Dues. Cancellations. Sage Type 1876-1900. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used On Cover. Cancellations & Postal History. Indo-China, Laos, Viet Nam. Philatelic Literature. Exchange).

REINSTATEMENTS

- 2027 JOHNSON, ROBERT IAN, 65 Manor Park, Redland, Bristol, BS6 7HW, England.
- 3240 DAVID, KENNETH, P.O. Box 250, Worcester, MA 01613-0250.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2838 BOSSARD, ALAIN, 1157 Emperor Avenue, Otta, Ontario, K1Z 8C3. Otta, Ontario, Canada.
- 3288 POLANSKY, BERNARD, 7 Linden Street, Salem, MA 09170.
- 1887 PARNIAK, MICHAEL A., 428 Woodland Hills Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235-5004.
- 1420 STEELE, JOHN R., 337-D Paseo Cerro, Green Valley, AZ 85614.
- 2184 WAGNER, KEITH, 113 Sandy Ridge Road, State College, PA 16803.
- 3275 DELBEKE, JOHAN, Gemeentestraat 206-201, 3010 Kessel-Lo, Belgium.
- 2016 DISLER, DUILIO, M., B. P. N° 114, 1723 Marly 1, Switzerland.

DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP

R. W. Armstrong (moved, left no forwarding address), Michael Bird (resigned), Henry Bruce Cyr (deceased), Gerard Degroux (resigned), James L. Emmett (no payment of dues), Douglas Files (resigned), Joseph P. Gorrell (deceased), Michel Houde (resigned), Earle Plyler (resigned), Michael R. Smith (deceased), Jean-Luc Trassaert (deceased).