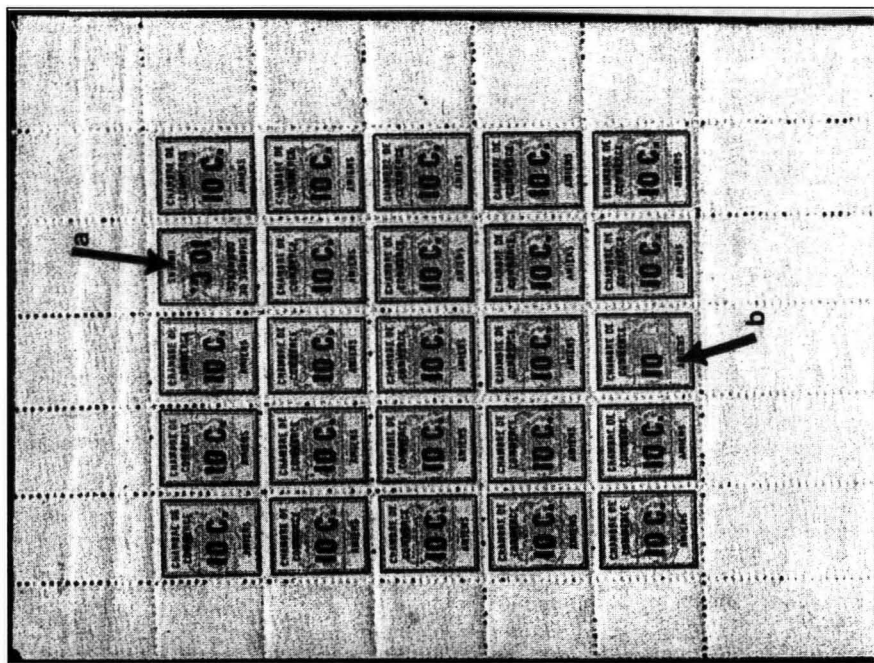




France & Colonies Philatelist

Vermeil Medals at COLOPEX 2002 and CHICAGOPEX 2003
 Silver Medal at 6th Canadian National Philatelic Exhibition (2002)



Complete sheet (reduced in size) of the 1909 Amiens Strike stamp, showing locations of the tête-bêche (a) (position 4) and missing "c" of value (b) (position 23).

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FRENCH POLYNESIA -- THE END OF OFFICIAL STAMPS

by Christian Beslu (FCPS #2358)

(Translated from the French by S. J. Luft)

The administrative council of the Office of the Posts of Tahiti, meeting on 22 November 1976, decided to abolish the free franchise, from which numerous administrations, societies and even some individuals had benefited ever since the postal service had been organized on 26 February 1861. Although there had been a number of corrections over the years since the French Establishments in Oceania (EFO) became an Overseas Territory in 1957, some 40 territorial and communal administrations continued to benefit from this freedom from postage. It was time finally to ameliorate a system difficult to control and generally lacking in public support.

In a 17 June 1977 circular, the governor of French Polynesia advised the heads of public and territorial services of the now stricter conditions regarding payments for and use of about-to-be-issued official stamps. The Office of Posts and Telecommunications (OPT) in France had decided to print and issue each stamp, to be used only within the Territory and for official purposes only.

Fruits typical of the region were chosen for the first series¹, issued 9 June 1977. Although theoretically the public could not make use of these stamps, they were available on that day at philatelic windows, along with a series of first-day covers.

We have previously commented upon the somewhat curious history of these first official stamps (and their various reprintings) in our cited 1996 article. However, we only touched lightly then upon the second series, whose first values appeared on 13 January 1993, and whose suppression was decreed on 15 September 2001 by the OPT. At present, the various administrations use up their remaining stocks, often in combination with postage meters and even ordinary postage stamps.

The subject chosen for this second series were "stamps and cancellations of the EFO epoch" (Figure 1), in a smaller size than the first series.² As was the case for the earlier series, there were a number of press runs (see Table), resulting in time in some perforation changes and in some varieties. It's known whether the various printings were all necessary as many official stamps remain in the stocks of a number of administrations, which had been ordered to use up their remainders.

At this point in time, we live in a period of great multiplicity regarding official mail (meters with official stamps of either or both series, and/or ordinary postage stamps) (Figures 2 and 3), as well as the expected illegal usage by individuals (Figure 4). Bureaucrats tend to preferentially use the lower values of official stamps, inasmuch as such values are no longer being printed for ordinary postage stamps (the OPT feels that printing lower values is much too onerous...).



Figure 1. Three examples of second series Officials.

In conclusion, collecting the official stamps of French Polynesia, off-cover and particularly on cover, considering the almost endless possibility of various combinations, can become a most challenging task.

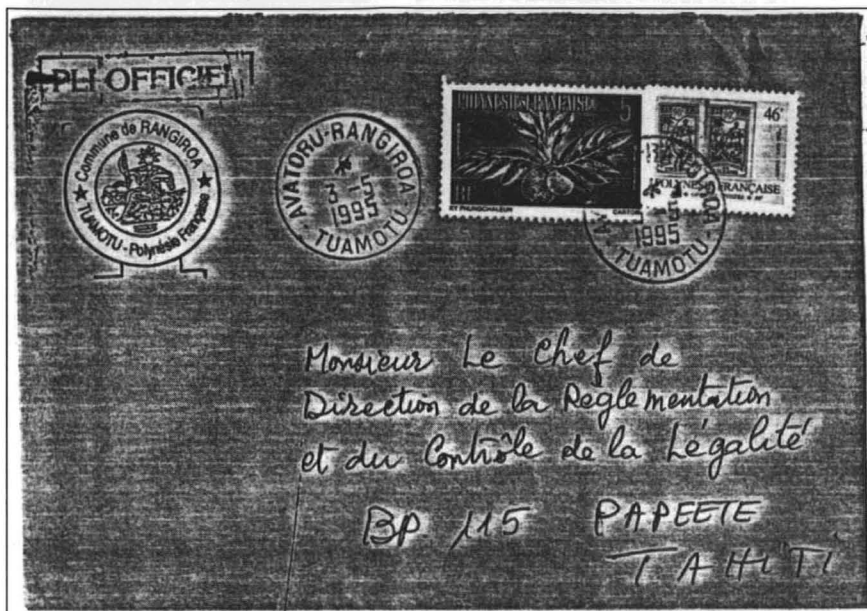


Figure 2. First and second series on same cover.



Figure 3. Two second-series Officials plus an ordinary postage stamp, on same cover.

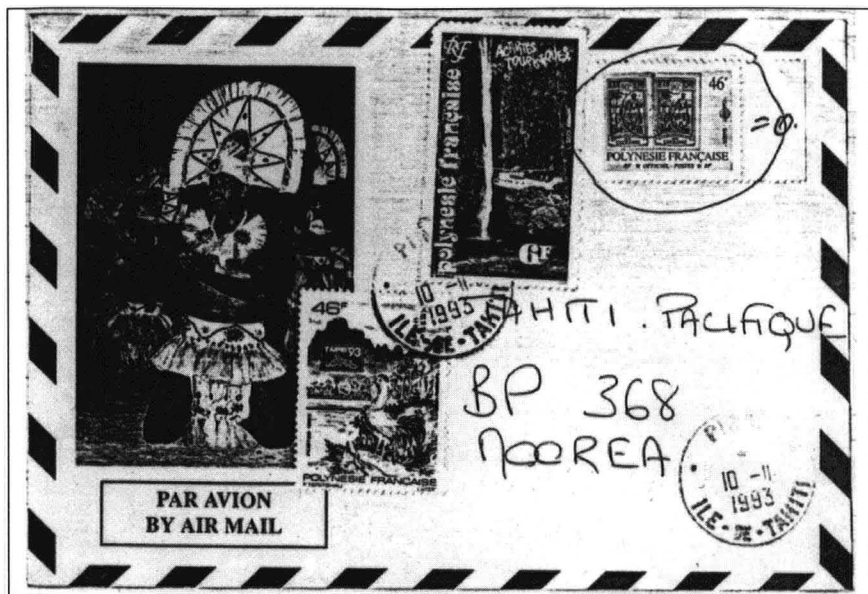


Figure 4. Illegal use of a 46F second-series Official; letter returned to sender who then affixed a 46F postage stamp alongside; letter was accepted, cancelled, and sent on.

Endnotes

1. Ch. Beslu, "Les timbres officiels de Polynésie française", *Le Monde des Philatélistes* N° 510, September 1996, pp. 48-50.
2. NDLR: our author is far too modest to mention that it was he who selected the subjects, using material from his own collections, which the OPT then purchased for its archives.

OFFICIAL STAMPS -- SECOND SERIES

| Face Value | Coins datés | Press run | Perforation | Remarks |
|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|--|
| 1F | 08/12/1992 | 100,000 | 13 | first printing |
| 1F | 23/09/1993 | 25,000 | 13 | |
| 1F | 12/10/1994 | 25,000 | 13 | |
| 1F | 09/07/1998 | 56,000 | 13 | |
| 2F | 08/12/1992 | 100,000 | 13 | first printing |
| 2F | 03/01/1994 | 25,000 | 13 | |
| 2F | 12/10/1994 | 25,000 | 13 | |
| 2F | 25/08/1997 | 57,000 | 13½ x 13 | |
| 3F | 08/12/1992 | 100,000 | 13 | first printing |
| 3F | 03/01/1994 | 25,000 | 13 | |
| 3F | 09/07/1998 | 56,000 | 13 | |
| 5F | 08/12/1992 | 100,000 | 13 | first printing smaller perf. holes out-of-stock 08/07/99 |
| 5F | 23/09/1993 | 25,000 | 13 | |
| 5F | 03/01/1994 | 25,000 | 13 | |
| 5F | 22/08/1997 | 57,000 | 13½ x 13 | |
| 9F | 08/12/1992 | 120,000 | 13 | first printing |
| 9F | 29/06/1998 | 100,000 | 13 | |
| 10F | 08/12/1992 | 100,000 | 13 | first printing no coin daté out-of-stock 08/07/99 |
| 10F | 23/09/1993 | 25,000 | 13 | |
| 10F | 03/01/1994 | 25,000 | 13 | |
| 10F | 1996 | 30,000 | 13½ x 13 | |
| 10F | 17/06/1997 | 50,000 | 13½ x 13 | |
| 10F | 29/06/1998 | 50,000 | 13½ x 13 | |
| 20F | 08/12/1992 | 100,000 | 13 | first printing |
| 20F | 23/09/1993 | 25,000 | 13 | |
| 20F | 03/01/1994 | 25,000 | 13 | |
| 20F | 06/01/1995 | 30,000 | 13 | |
| 20F | 09/07/1998 | 56,000 | 13 | |
| 46F | 08/12/1992 | 100,000 | 13 | first printing smaller perf. holes |
| 46F | 09/04/1993 | 100,000 | 13 | |
| 46F | 12/05/1993 | 300,000 | 13 | |
| 51F | 14/02/1994 | 220,000 | 13 | first printing out-of-stock 08/07/99 |
| 51F | 24/10/1995 | 100,000 | 13 | |
| 70F | 08/12/1992 | 100,000 | 13 | first printing |
| 70F | 23/09/1993 | 25,000 | 13 | |
| 70F | 12/10/1994 | 25,000 | 13 | |
| 70F | 11/07/1997 | 100,000 | 13½ x 13 | |
| 85F | 01/04/1997 | 120,000 | 13 | first printing |
| 85F | 18/06/1997 | 100,000 | 13 | |
| 100F | 08/12/1992 | 100,000 | 13 | first printing no coin daté out-of-stock 08/07/99 |
| 100F | 23/09/1993 | 25,000 | 13 | |
| 100F | 1996 | 30,000 | 13½ x 13 | |
| 100F | 17/06/1997 | 50,000 | 13½ x 13 | |
| 200F | 08/12/1992 | 100,000 | 13 | first printing no coin daté out-of-stock 08/07/99 |
| 200F | 23/09/1993 | 25,000 | 13 | |
| 200F | 1996 | 20,000 | 13½ x 13 | |
| 200F | 17/06/1997 | 50,000 | 13½ x 13 | |

Dates of issue: 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 46, 70, 100 and 200F: 13 January 1993; 51F: 6 April 1994; 9 and 85F: 21 April 1997.

Following upon a rate increase, the 9F value was issued, to be used with the 46F (of which there were plentiful stocks) to meet the 55F rate. The 85F value was printed for an anticipated up-to-20 gm domestic rate, which was in error for the actual rate turned out to be 80F.

POSTAL CENSORSHIP AND CONTROL DURING WORLD WAR II — CAMEROUN AND ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON

by M. P. Bratzel, Jr. (FCPS N° 2394)

In the January 2003 issue of the *France & Colonies Philatelist*, David Allen presented an informative, well researched and well illustrated article about postal censorship in St. Pierre and Miquelon during World War II.¹ A primary information source was a detailed report prepared by territorial Administrator Garrouste, in 1945. In his article, David reported that:

“Prior to the declaration of war in 1939 the French authorities decreed that there should be immediate postal censorship. An inter-ministerial decree issued on September 24, 1938 was issued to all territories under French jurisdiction. St. Pierre and Miquelon was not exempt and a postal censorship commission was organized to take effect as soon as war broke out.”

My personal collecting interest is Cameroun. For that territory, an *arrêté* was published in the *Journal officiel du Cameroun* authorizing postal and telegraph control commissions at Douala and Yaoundé, effective August 25, 1939.² That *arrêté* brought into force previously developed censorship procedures. Since war did not break out until a week later, on September 1, I presume that the German-Soviet nonaggression pact of August 21, 1939 was the event that triggered the control measures, and that these measures would have been implemented uniformly throughout the French community. Therefore, I queried David that, for St. Pierre and Miquelon, “a postal control commission was organized to take effect as soon as war broke out.”

David kindly provided photocopies of the relevant pages from Administrator Garrouste’s report. Regarding the date for the start of the postal control commission, the report stated, “Une Commission de contrôle postale et télégraphique fut instituée au Chef-lieu, dès la mobilisation.” This is not inconsistent with the August 25 date for Cameroun.

The roots of the regulations and instructions given force by the 1939 *arrêté* and subsequent decrees for Cameroun go back more than a decade. The Centre des Archives d’Outre-Mer (C.A.O.M.) in Aix-en-Provence has draft versions of the documents for control of all forms of communication in case of war — virtually all of the details had been worked out by mid-1927. The latest draft was dated December 14, 1937.³ A subsequent *arrêté* and decrees for Cameroun regarding radio, telephone, and telegraph control refer to French decrees of December 15, 1938 and April 28, 1939, as well as to the French law of July 11, 1938, “Organization générale au pays pour le temps de guerre.” There is, however, no reference to any document dated September 24, 1938.

In his report, Administrator Garrouste states, “La Commission de contrôle postal, organisée, dès la déclaration de guerre, dans le Territoire en exécution des prescriptions générales relatives à l’état de guerre (*Instruction interministérielle du 24 Sep^{bre} 1938*),...” Garrouste inserted the italicized portion into the typewritten text in his own handwriting, so the instruction must exist.

To establish the exact date that a postal control commission was established for St. Pierre and Miquelon, the *Journal officiel des îles Saint-Pierre et Miquelon* for the year 1939 was consulted. However, the answer was NOT what was expected. Decision No. 405, dated August 30, 1938 (a typo — it should be 1939) is shown in Figure 1.⁴ The preface refers to a decision dated September 15, 1931 instituting a postal control commission at St. Pierre with a subsequent modification dated October 16, 1933. Decision No. 405 only modifies the membership of an already existing control commission!

— 1008 —

N° 405. — DÉCISION fixant la composition de la Commission de Contrôle postal à Saint-Pierre.

L'Administrateur du Territoire des Iles Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur,

Vu le décret du 4 juin 1936 portant réorganisation administrative des Iles Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, ensemble les décrets des 26 octobre 1936 et 7 février 1939 portant modifications dudit acte,

Vu la décision du 15 septembre 1931 instituant une Commission de Contrôle postal à Saint-Pierre;

Vu la décision du 16 octobre 1933 modifiant la décision du 15 septembre 1931 susvisée;

DÉCIDE:

Article 1^{er}. — La composition de la Commission de contrôle postal telle qu'elle résulte de l'article 2 de la décision susvisée du 15 septembre 1931 est à nouveau modifiée comme suit:

Le Chef du Service Judiciaire, *Président*.

Le Chef du Cabinet de l'Administrateur, *Membre*.

Le Juge de Paix de Saint-Pierre, *Membre*.

Art. 2. — La décision susvisée du 16 octobre 1933 est abrogée.

Art. 3. — La présente décision sera enregistrée et communiquée partout où besoin sera.

Saint-Pierre, le 30 août 1938.

G. DE BOURNAT.

Figure 1. Page 1008 (Decision N° 405) of the J. O. of St.-P&M, 30 August 1938 [sic]

The J. O. for the Years 1931 and 1933 was consulted next, with specific attention to the annual table of contents and to individual pages. The J. O. includes *arrêtés*, *décisions*, *décrets*, *lois*, and *rapports*. Decisions are listed in numerical and chronological order, but only a fraction of the total number was published, and there is no record of decisions for the two above-noted dates. The best one can do is to bracket the September 15, 1931 decision between Decision No. 357, dated September 8 and No. 376, dated September 23. Similarly, the October 16, 1933 decision falls between No. 394, dated October 14 and No. 435, dated November 29. To locate the two desired decisions, one will have to consult records either at St. Pierre and Miquelon or at the C.A.O.M. David advised, however, that "all records are more or less destroyed

in St. Pierre as there was a disastrous fire that decimated the archives some years back.”⁵

Why was postal control instituted in 1931? In some other countries during this period, customs and excise regulations authorized the opening of mail and parcels to check, for example, for bank notes and other securities, the import or export of which was controlled. This was true for Germany, and there has been some debate as to whether the Third Reich used this as a means to read the mail prior to 1939.

— 1100 —

Nominations, Mutations, etc ,

Par décision de M. l'Administrateur du Territoire, en date du 26 septembre 1939, M. l'Enseigne de Vaisseau de 1^{re} classe Delcourt, chargé du Service de Renseignements du Territoire, est nommé membre de la Commission de contrôle postal.

Par arrêté de M. l'Administrateur du Territoire, en date du 29 septembre 1939, M. Compagnon, François-Xavier, Chef de station de 2^{me} classe du cadre local du personnel du service radiotélégraphique, a été nommé Chef du Service radiotélégraphique p. i. du Territoire.

Par décision de l'Administrateur du Territoire, en date du 30 septembre 1939, M. Fitzpatrick, Yves, a été engagé en qualité de garde de police auxiliaire, pour compter du 1^{er} octobre 1939.

Saint-Pierre. — Imprimerie du Gouvernement.

Figure 2. Page 100 of same J. O., 30 September 1939

It is important to distinguish between postal control, as practiced in the early-to-mid 1930s, with postal censorship, instituted in 1939. Without any foundation of fact, I speculate that postal control (not censorship) was instituted at St. Pierre and Miquelon in 1931 to check for contraband, perhaps spurred by the opportunity for such activities by proximity to Newfoundland. The decisions of 1931 and 1933 likely hold the answer. Further, for September 1939, I speculate that the functions of the extant control commission were modified to encompass postal censorship.

On another point, in his report, Administrator Garrouste specifically named the four members of the postal control commission in September 1939. Decision No. 405 lists only three positions. The fourth member was named September 26, 1939 (Figure 2).⁵

For Cameroun, I have several covers with postal control marks for late August 1939. For St. Pierre and Miquelon, however, David observes that "local censorship doesn't start until after the invasion of December 1941. It would appear...that censorship was really in the hands of the Canadians and the Americans prior to that time."⁶ Only one cover prior to that date has been recorded with local censorship.⁷ Postmarked November 11, 1939, the envelope was opened, resealed, and approximately marked. However, the sender was Emile-Jean Guillot who, as Chief of the Judicial Service, was chairman of the postal-control commission so, in effect, he was censoring himself. After 1941, David has plenty of examples of local censorship in his extensive collection. Does anyone have a cover dated between 1931 and August 1939 that would illustrate postal control prior to the outbreak of World War II, or local censorship between September 1939 and December 1941?

To conclude, we have yet to find documentation for the date that censorship officially ended within the French community. My thanks to David for information to the effect that censorship was discontinued piecemeal, depending on the point of origin or destination of the mail. To my knowledge, for Cameroun, the latest date for postal control is a cover backstamped Douala August 25, 1945 with the Commission A mark used there for six long years.

Thanks are extended to Mr. Bill Mahannah and Mme. Nicole Atwill, Library of Congress, for searching for, and successfully locating the *J.O.* for St. Pierre and Miquelon. Lastly, my thanks to David Allen for stimulating this inquiry.

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1. David J. Allen. Postal Censorship in St. Pierre and Miquelon 1939-1945. *France & Colonies Philatelist*, Vol. 59, No. 1, January 2003, pp. 7-18. See also: Vol. 59, No. 2, p. 52.
2. *Journal officiel du Cameroun*, No. 471, September 1, 1939, p. 788. Yaoundé, Imprimerie du Gouvernement.
3. Service de preparation de la Défense Nat. / organisation du Controle postal 1927-1938. Centre des Archives d'Outre-Mer, Aix-en-Provence, France. Access information: FM-66—Affaires Politiques—Section: Cameroun. Forces Armées / Cameroun, Cart. 2559, dos. 14.
4. *Journal officiel des îles Saint-Pierre et Miquelon*, September 15, 1939, p. 1008. St. Pierre, Imprimerie du Gouvernement.
5. David Allen. Personal communication, May 6, 2003.
6. *Journal officiel des îles Saint-Pierre et Miquelon*, *op. cit.* September 30, 1939, p. 1100.
7. James R. Taylor, Previously Unreported St. Pierre 1939 Military Censor Marking. *St. Pierre & Miquelon Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 9, No. 3, July 2003, pp. 1-2.

THE FIRST FRENCH AIR FORCE

by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS N° 2180)

Much has been written about the exploits of Napoleon Bonaparte and his Grand Armies but very little about the French air force of his times. The period begins near the end of the 18th Century when the airplane was not even a twinkle in its inventors' eyes. However, the Montgolfier brothers, Joseph and Etienne of Annonay, inspired according to one source¹ by the sight of a wife's bloomers lifting into the air while drying beside a fireplace, constructed various balloons out of silk and paper. On 4 June 1783 they achieved the first public demonstration of hot air lifting a balloon to a height of 1000 meters. Then, with an even bigger balloon and in the presence of King Louis XVI on 19 September 1783 in Paris, passengers were carried aloft. Not people but a duck, a rooster and a sheep who suffered no ill effects from the altitude². The first flight piloted by man took place only two months later, lasting almost 25 minutes, reaching a height of 900 meters and traveling 10 kilometers. The risk of flying in a structure made of paper being kept aloft by air heated by fire was evident, and almost immediately thereafter balloons were being filled with hydrogen, the manufacture of which had been discovered only a few years earlier by Lavoisier. The first piloted hydrogen-gas balloon lifted off from Paris on 1 December 1783. France issued two stamps (Scott 1863-1864) on 19 March 1983 in honor of the bicentennial of manned flight. The U.S. also issued a group of four stamps depicting balloons (Scott 2032-2035) on 31 March 1983, but they do not appear to have anything to do with that bicentennial.

One hydrogen balloonist at the time was another Frenchman, Jean-Pierre Blanchard, reportedly a barnstormer and exhibitionist, the first to drop animals by parachute, the first to experiment with ways to control flight, the first to cross the English Channel in a balloon, and the first to pilot a balloon in America³. The first flight across the Channel, from Dover to Clais on 7 January 1785, also carried **the first airmail letter**⁴. After Jean-Pierre died in 1809 his wife, Madeline-Sophie Blanchard, herself a skilled balloonist, continued putting on air shows. Rwanda issued a set of eight stamps (Scott 1183-90) on 4 June 1984, also in honor of the bicentennial of manned flight and including a depiction of Jean-Pierre and Sophie together in a balloon (Figure 1).

Meanwhile, the potential for the use of balloons had not escaped the military and a plan was put forth to use tethered, or captive, balloons as observation posts. The first such use, according to the Memoirs of Baron Selle de Beauchamp⁵, took place during the War of the First Coalition at the Battle of Wattignies where, in mid-October 1793, the French Armée du Nord (Figure 2) under General Jourdan was besieged at Mauberge by the Allied armies (primarily Austrian) under the Duke of Saxe-Coburg⁶. The French sent up the captive balloon *l'Entrepreneur* to determine the Austrian positions and effectively demoralize their army. The balloon next



Figure 1. enlarged copy of Rwanda Scott 1184, showing the airborne Blanchards.

went to Charleroi on 23 June 1794 where, during the Battle of Fleurus (26 June), it stayed aloft some nine hours providing for General Hatry's French artillery all the positions of the enemy. In both battles the French were victorious.

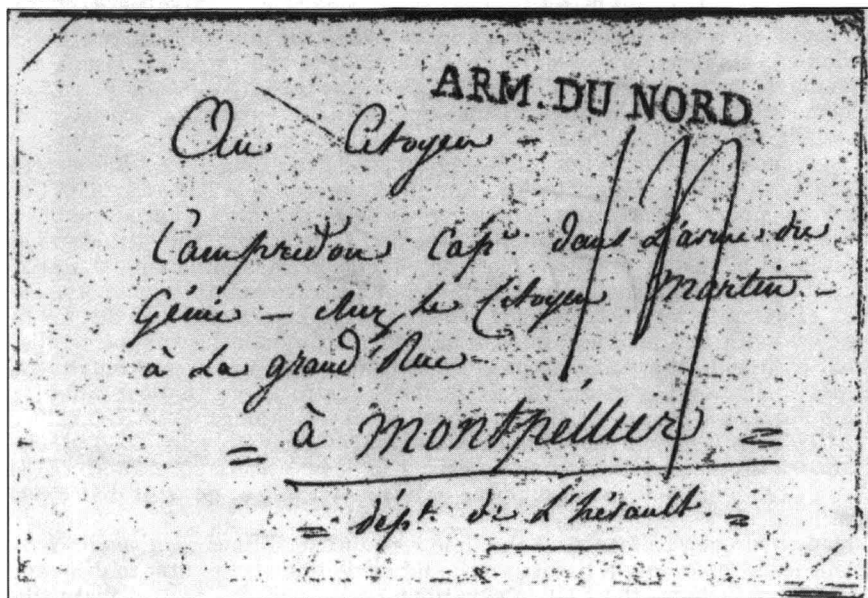


Figure 2.

These military successes were due in large part to the prescience of France's then ruling body, the Committee of Public Safety, which had established a training area and school at Meudon, where a captive balloon was successfully launched. The Committee, therefore, by Decree of 2 April 1794, formed a company of military aerostiers commanded by Capt. J.-M. Coutelle⁷. Coutelle had earlier taken the *l'Entrepreneur* into the air at Maubeuge, and then to Charleroi and Fleurus (Figure 3). Through these actions we can place the birth of the First French Air Force. Was this not an event worthy of philatelic commemoration?

By Decree of 2 March 1796, Bonaparte was appointed to take the place of General Barthélemy Schérer as commander-in-chief of the Army of Italy⁸. His military successes in northern Italy led to the Treaty of Campo Formio of 18 October 1797, which put an end to the war between France and the Coalition. Bonaparte was then made commander-in-chief of the Armée d'Angleterre⁹ and immediately started planning for an invasion of England. These plans included consideration of using the French Air Force (*i.e.*, the use of balloons) to ferry troops across the Channel. His plans, however, were diverted to first conquering Egypt and India and, while he did take balloons to Egypt, there is no record of any having been used there. Following the *coup d'Etat* of 18 Brumaire An VIII (9 November 1799), Bonaparte declared himself First Consul, later was made Consul for Life, and then allowed the Senate to name him Emperor 18 May 1804. At his coronation on 2 December 1804 he had five unmanned balloons released from the Place de la Concorde. A large balloon carrying an eagle, flags and a jeweled crown was released at the same time in Rome, and upon descent a gust of wind sent it crashing into the tomb of Nero where the crown became ensnared. Bonaparte was so displeased with the bad



Figure 3. Coutelle's captive balloon at the Battle of Fleurus.

omen that he dismissed the then official balloonist, Jacques Garnerin, and replaced him with Sophie Blanchard called, according to one source¹⁰ the "official Aeronaut of the French Empire," in other words the head of the French Air Force.

Sophie was indeed a favorite of Napoleon, one author calling her "Napoleon's Angel"¹¹ (Figure 4), and she was often called upon to exhibit her ballooning skills, such as at the celebration in June 1810 of Napoleon's marriage (following the annulment of his marriage to Josephine) to Marie-Louise, daughter of Austrian Emperor France II. Sophie continued her ballooning exhibitions until the evening of 6 July 1819 when, during her 67th ascent, this time from the Tuileries Gardens, her balloon caught fire from her fireworks and she fell to her death on the Rue de Provence¹².

This article is derived from a short, unpublished essay provided to me in November 2000 by Stephen Neulander, the editor of the *Jack Knight Air Log*.

Endnotes

1. "Pantaloons and Pink Skies - An Unofficial Herstory of Ballooning," Yvonne Scott, <http://alibi.com/alibi/2002-10-03/feature>
2. "The Montgolfier Brothers," www.todayinsci.com
3. "Women in Flight," John H. Lienhard, www.uh.edu
4. "Ballooning History Timeline," www.ballooning.org
5. *The Romance of Ballooning*, Edita Lausanne; Viking Press, 1971, p. 66
6. "War of 1st Coalition," www.napoleon-series.org

7. "Les Précurseurs des ballons monté des Papillons de Metz," Pierre Gobillet; *Documents Philatéliques* N° 102, 1984, pp. 16-18

8. *The Road to Rivoli*, Martin Boycott-Brown; Cassel & Co., London, 2001, p. 119

9. *The Age of Napoleon*, J. Christopher Herold; Horizon Books, 1963, p. 51

10. "Pantaloons and Pink Skies," *op. cit.*, p. 3

11. "Flights of Fancy," Robert Whitworth, www.printsgeorge.com

12. *The Romance of Ballooning*, *op. cit.*, pp. 85-86.

Napoleon's Angel



Madame Blanchard

Figure 4.



Figure 5. The death of Mme Blanchard (from Endnote 12)

THE PHILATELY OF CILICIA IN A NUTSHELL

According to presentations by Jean-Bernard Parenti to the Académie de Philatélie in December 2002 and concluded in 2003, four different overprints were imprinted by French occupation forces upon Turkish stamps, and issued between 5 March and 1 April 1919. This fact alone should make collecting Cilicia most fascinating as well as challenging.

The first (CILICIE 17 mm long by 4 mm high) was overprinted by hand on 26 different values between 4 March and 12 May. The second (CILICIE 15 mm by 3 mm) appeared on 1 April on 11 values. The third, also manual but in script style, also appeared on 1 April, on 19 values. Finally there was the fourth overprint (T.E.O./Cilicie)¹ in two styles, also on 19 values, but this time typographed.

British troops were repatriated in September 1919 and Cilicia came under sole French administration, effective that November. Between September and December E.E.F. stamps² were used to some extent. Beginning in January 1920, stamps of the French Offices in Turkey, in use in French-occupied Lebanon, were overprinted T.E.O./20/PARAS. "Definitive" O.M.F./Cilicie/³value overprints appeared during March and April 1920, and remained in use until Cilicia returned to Turkish control in November 1921. An airmail service (with appropriate handstamped airmail overprint) existed very briefly in July 1920 between Adana and Mersina.

Your catalogues generally quite adequately show the overprints and list the stamps that were overprinted. Be aware of counterfeit overprints.

1. T.E.O. = Territoires Ennemis Occupés
2. E.E.F. = Egyptian Expeditionary Force
3. O.M.F. = Occupation Militaire Française

-- S. J. Luft

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

Happily this may be fairly brief as much of the baggage was shifted into "Members' Appeals".

Now that we have four additional pages in three quarters of our issues, what might be your pleasure? Should we reserve space for additional articles? If so, what kind of articles should we strive for? More learned, research ones? Or more "Occasional Fundamentals" / "French Marcophily" basics? Or more "how-to-identify/distinguish/expertize" your material? But then, should we also consider going to larger typeface for the benefit of aging eyes? Are there additional features you would like to have included, or current ones discarded? Or?? We want to hear from you, and you can find me at the post office and e-mail addresses shown on the masthead. Never forget that, as FCPS members, this is **your** Journal.

Finally let us give a hearty welcome to our new leadership, incoming President Dave Herendeen and Vice-President Ken Nilsestuen, as we extend our appreciation to now Past President Dick Stevens and to former Vice-President but still Treasurer Bill Wallis. It's been a great run of many fruitful years!

AMAZING 1870/1871 WONDER STORIES--85

by Ernest M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

The late Jacques Robineau, who occupied seat N° 1 of the Académie de Philatélie, published a short note in its *Documents Philatéliques* 85, 3rd Quarter 1980, pp. 105-107. It concerns, as he rightly entitled it, 'A Curious Papillon de Metz,' now the property of the Musée de la Poste (then called Musée Postal), which fortunately obtained it together with the official note that accompanied it. Following is a somewhat more complete history of this and other *papillons* that traveled on the same balloon. The additional facts, and a couple of corrections of minor errors by Dr. Jeannel and the note writer of the 14th Army Corps at Paris, make the *papillon* even more curious.

Jeannel, who organized the first unmanned balloon service during the 1870 siege of Metz, published an account of it from beginning to end (Dr. Julien François Jeannel, *Poste aérostatique de Metz*, in *l'Union Médicale* [Paris], 3rd series, year 11, 1 April 1871, pp. 205-212). In it, he estimated that they had mailed about 3000 *papillons* in 14 balloons dispatched between 5 and 15 September, incl. But, using his own and other published data, where more details are given, I showed in my 1976 booklet *Die Papillons von Metz* (page 22) that the total was half as much, i.e., nearer 1500. Also, he did not give the dates on which they mailed their balloons, but thanks to French and German newspaper and weather reports, soldiers' mail, and to marking the landing spots on a map (showing wind directions on those days when balloons were launched), a corrected schedule was drawn up.

After 3½ days of heavy rain, when no paper balloons could be sent, one was launched on September 10 in the afternoon and three on the 11th. The balloon that carried the *papillon* shown in Figure 1 was the 7th of the total and the second of those three. It was seen to

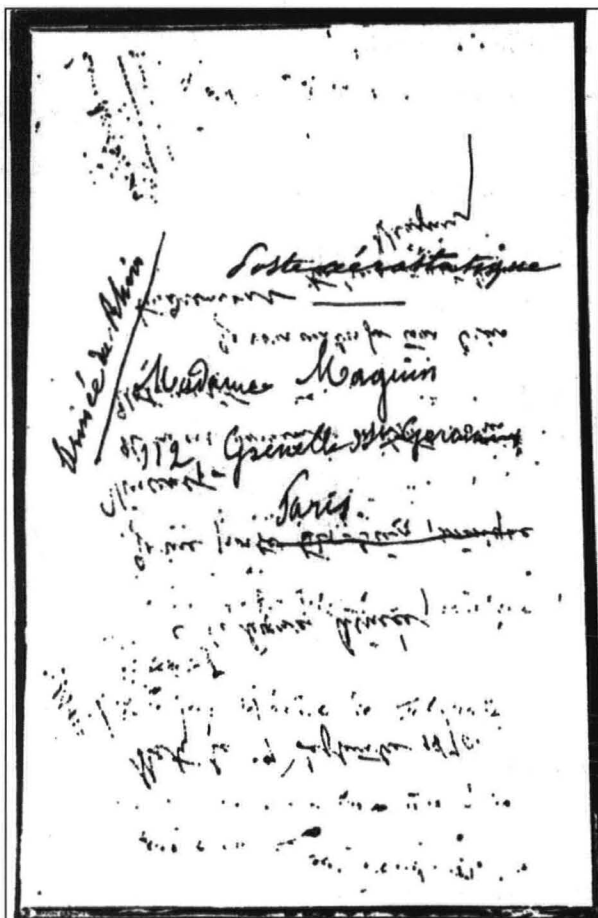


Figure 1. (All illustrations from Robineau, 1980)

land on the Schollhof farm near Oberwittstadt between 4 and 5 p.m., having covered a distance of some 250 km in probably fewer than 10 hours. It is reported to have carried 63 or 67 messages. The package had the following notice written on it:

"Ballon N° 7. Armée du Rhin, Poste aérostatique de la garde impériale. La personne qui trouvera le présent paquet est priée instamment de mettre à la poste les dépêches qu'il contient."

[Balloon N° 7. Army of the Rhine, Aerostatic mail of the imperial guard. The person finding this package is asked to take the dispatches that it contains immediately to the post office.]

Oberwittstadt is today part of the town of Ravenstein. At least one German news item mentions 9 September in connection with the inscription "Poste aérostatique. Ballon des pharmaciens. Ville de Metz, 9 Septembre 7^e ballon." That appears to be the date of its manufacture. It and its gutta-percha wrapped contents were sent to the Boxberg district office and thence to the war ministry (of Baden) at Karlsruhe. No record of the mail could be found there, but at least part of it was obviously sent to German headquarters at Versailles.

On 10 October, Antoine Schmitt, an employee of the U.S. Legation (embassy) at Paris, accompanied General Burnside and Colonel Forbes on their return to Versailles from their second visit to Paris. His task was to act as courier, taking the U.S. diplomatic pouch to London and returning with despatches via Versailles to Paris. The Germans, however, gave him his choice of either staying at London or returning to Paris directly upon leaving Versailles.

He therefore returned to Paris on 14 October, having been given, by someone at German headquarters, a batch of Metz papillons addressed to Paris. He delivered those to the 14th Army Corps at the Porte Maillot at Paris. Someone there wrote a note (Figure 2) to Mrs. Maguin:

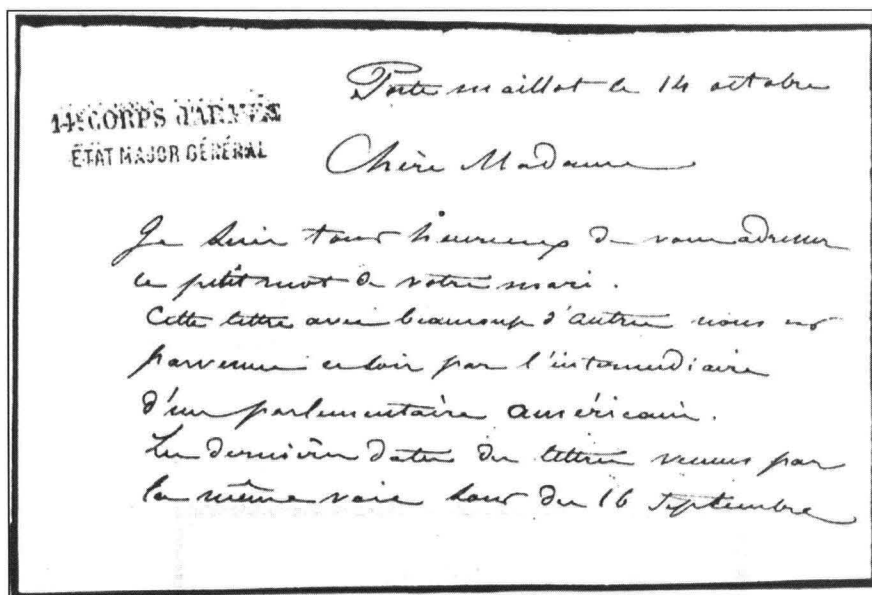


Figure 2.

"Jes suis tout heureux de vous adresser ce petit mot de votre mari.

"Cette lettre avec beaucoup d'autres nous est parvenue ce soir par l'intermediaire d'un parlementaire Américain.

"Les dernières dates des lettres venues par la même voie sont du 16 Septembre."

[I am very happy to send you this little word from your husband. This letter with many others came to us this evening by intermediation of an American parliamentary. The latest dates of the letters that arrived by the same way are from 16 September.]

Since the balloon flew on the 11th, the writer must have meant the 6th, of course, which fits.

This, then, is a message — without envelope, stamp, or postal marking of any kind — that was flown into enemy territory, captured, sent (presumably by mail and/or couriers) to enemy field headquarters, there given to an employee of a neutral power to take it into Paris, delivered by him to the nearest Paris military post, and sent from there by local mail to the intended recipient (Figure 3). Truly a most curious piece of mail.

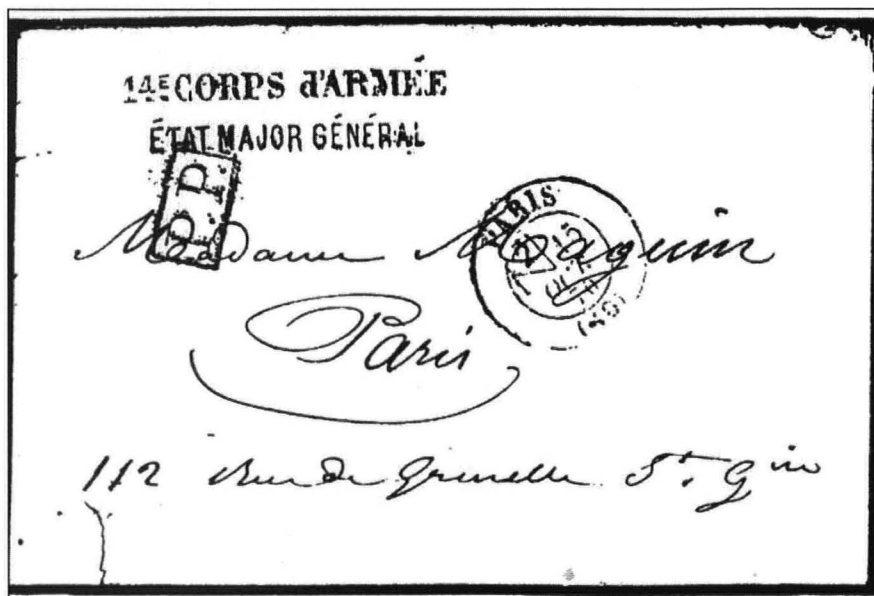


Figure 3.

SOME SHOW REPORTS

(Continued from N° 276, April 2004, p. 50)

- COLOPEX 2004 (Columbus, OH, February): Single-frame Grand Award and Platinum medal to Cheryl Ganz for "The 50¢ Zeppelin Issue..."
- Postage Stamp Mega Event (New York, NY, March): Gold medal to Ed Grabowski for "French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Use, Misuse and Non-use in Madagascar & Dependencies."
- Nashville Stamp Show 2004 (Nashville, TN, March): Vermeil medal to Thomas ("Tuck") Taylor for his exhibit of Washington, D.C. postmarks.
- FRESPEX 2004 (Fresno, CA, March): Silver medal to Bob Kinsley for "Switzerland and the Two World Wars."
- Garfield-Perry March Party 2004 (Cleveland, OH, March): Gold medal to Larry Gardner for "Morocco Foreign Post Offices and Agencies"; Silver medal to Paul Larsen for a Barbados exhibit; Single-frame Platinum medal to Steve Walske for his exhibit of 1869-1871 US mail to France, and Gold medal to Paul Larsen for his Leeward Islands revenue exhibit. Ken Nilsestuen served as the apprentice judge.
- Parforex 2004 (Park Forest, IL, April): 1st Award to Paul Larsen for "Niger Issues of 1921-1942" and also a 2nd Award for another, different Barbados exhibit.
- Plymouth Show 2004 (Plymouth, MI, April): Reserve Grand and Gold medal to Paul Larsen for his Leeward Islands exhibit; Gold medals to Larry Gardner for "Foreign Post Offices and Agencies in Morocco," and to Peter Smith for an Egypt exhibit; Vermeil medals to Peter Smith for yet another Egypt exhibit and to Steve Washburne for one on Portugal and Colonies.
- Philatelic Show 2004 (Boxborough, MA, April-May): Grand Award and Gold medal to Steve Walske for "Transatlantic Packet Mail between the USA and France 1840-1875"; Gold medal to Fernando Iglesias for "The British and French Post Offices in Cuba," and a Vermeil medal for an exhibit of Cuba.
- WESTPEX 2004 (San Francisco, CA, May): Vermeil medal to Dickson Preston for his Canal Zone exhibit. John Lievsay served on the jury.
- Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2004 (Denver, May): Gold medal to Chuck LaBlonde for his Swiss World War II mail exhibit; Vermeil medal to Bob Kinsley for "Switzerland and the Two World Wars"; Silver medal to Robert Johnson for "The Lavoro Issue of Italy." In the single frame competition, a Gold medal to John Bloor for "Georges Guynemer and the Guynemer Airmail Etiquettes of France" [a title almost as long as the exhibit..], and also a Vermeil medal for a Portuguese Africa exhibit; another Vermeil medal went to Lewis Bussey for "Not Quite a Postal Card." John Lievsay served on the jury, which was chaired by your Editor.

[As can be seen, a great start for the year by our members, even if they don't show quite enough France or Colonies exhibits. Congratulations to all you exhibitors!]

REVIEW

AR - Avis de réception (Volume 1?), by David Handelman, with sections by Peter A S Smith and Henrik Mouritsen; Postal History Society of Canada, 2002; 158 + vi pages, 6 x 9", wire-O binding. \$25.69 Canadian (+ postage) from the author at Mathematics Department, University of Ottawa, Ottawa Ontario K1N 6N5, Canada; e-mail: dehsg@uottawa.ca.

As will be seen, the question mark in the title of this introduction to an almost unstudied subject is important. Professor Handelman begins his study thus, in the opening paragraph of his Introduction -

"AR refers to the official Universal Postal Union (UPU) term *avis de réception*. This is a service available for registered mail (and on non-registered mail in some jurisdictions) which provides that the receiver of the registered item sign a form or card (known as an AR form or AR card) which is returned to the sender. This is evidence that the registered letter has been duly delivered."

The Introduction includes a brief history of the service, which may have been available in some form in the medieval Venetian postal system. More recently, in the 18th Century (and until well into the 20th), it was available in the Austrian Empire under the name "*retour récépissé*." Internal AR schemes were adopted by France in 1859 (registration was not required until 1878), Italy in 1861 and the United States in 1863; in 1851 Prussia negotiated several bilateral AR treaties. International services, however, did not really take off until the Paris UPU Convention of June 1878 came into force on 1 April 1879, and (because of lack of information on earlier arrangements) this is really the starting of the book.

The UPU requirements were intended primarily for international mail and can be divided into three periods, each of which has its own chapter - 1879 to 1892 (designated "Very early AR"), the period of the UPU Treaty of Vienna (1892 to 1898) ("Early AR") and 1 January 1899 onwards ("post-Vienna"); each had its own variation on a basically similar scheme where the item was accompanied (sometimes followed) by paperwork enabling the receiving office to certify delivery to the sending office (or sender). Normally the AR paperwork was the responsibility of the office of origin, but during the short-lived "early AR" period it was placed in the hands of the office of destination. This led to the requirement that covers intended for the AR service should be marked by means of an appropriate cachet (most frequently this has been a boxed AR), a practice which long out-lived the end of the Vienna period. Other chapters deal with AR stamps and the paperwork - forms, cards and covering envelopes - and there are specialised chapters dealing with Canada and the United States as well as Egypt and Denmark (these being the contributions from Messrs Smith and Mouritsen respectively). Finally comes a chapter ("Weird AR") on unusual items, an afterword tying up loose ends and an Appendix on after-posting enquiries as to the delivery or other fate of the item.

The book covers the whole world insofar as practice is known to Professor Handelman and his colleagues. As its modest size indicates, and as he is the first to acknowledge, it is far from complete for the simple reason that for many countries information is just not to hand. France, and by extension the Colonies, receives what seems to be the most detailed treatment (apart, of

course, from the four other countries given specialised attention); nevertheless Professor Handelman hopes one day to be able to add a contribution from an expert. Meanwhile, in his afterword called "Final(?) words" he requests collectors' assistance in preparing a second volume, on which he expects to start work this summer (2004) - it will, he tells me, include a section on the French Colonies. Readers of the *Philatelist* can help with this project by sending Professor Handelman photocopies of any colonial (pre-and post-independence) material in their possession. In the longer term, I have been unable to trace any significant references to AR in the indexes, but if anyone has made a special study of the subject without writing about it so far and feels able to contribute the specialised study that is sought, I'm sure that Professor Handelman will be delighted to hear from you.

Despite its limitations, this is an important study which opens up a whole new field for research. It's attractive to the eye, although a more robust binding would be an advantage, as would a larger page size - many of the black and white illustrations, which are otherwise quite adequate, have been reduced. It is to be hoped that eventually a definitive study will be produced, when these disadvantages can be corrected.

-- Bill Mitchell

MEMBERS' APPEALS

WANTED: Copies of official documents (laws, decrees, etc.) authorizing the surcharge of stamps from Senegal in 1892 (Yvert #6 and 7): issue dates, quantities, circulation; also reproductions of postmarks from the different post offices of Senegal. Contact Bruno Mattei at bruno.mattei@laposte.fr (Mb. #2952).

WANTED: Example of a mise en train (découpage) for France 25c Ceres (either the 1850 imperforate or the 1871 perforate). Send photocopy and asking price to J. E. Lievsay, 20 Center Drive, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, USA. (Mb. #1008).

WANTED: Original articles whatever their length; articles accepted by other journals if of likely interest to our members; older published articles, for the same reason. Illustrations of your "favorite" covers and of interesting multiples and varieties that can be used to grace our Journal's covers or serve (with a short text) as "Shorter Contributions." Please follow the "Suggestions to Future Authors" given in N° 272, April 2003, p. 54. We thank you in advance! Stanley J. Luft (*FCP* Editor), 16291 West 56th Place, Golden, CO 80403, USA; e-mail: fcpsed@worldnet.att.net (Mb #915).

WANTED: Those of you who specialize in the Colonies (I don't) who can furnish examples, or point to in the various French auction catalogues, interesting, significant, and/or unusual (not necessarily expensive) stamps, covers, etc., worthy of being mentioned and depicted in our Journal. Please contact your Editor (address above, or on masthead, or use e-mail). Thank you! (Mb. #915).

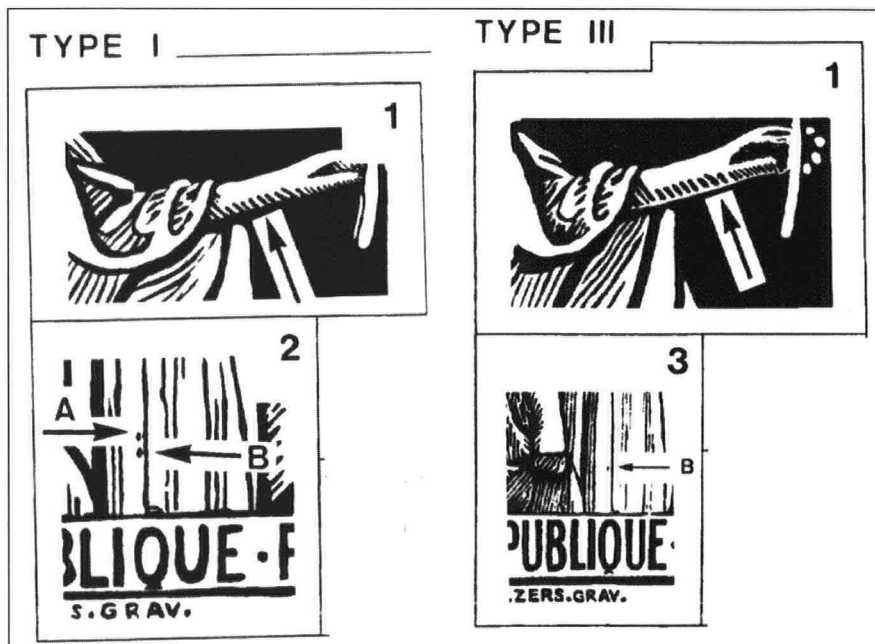
TYPES AND SUBTYPES

65c Paix of Laurens

Type I: (sheet stamps in brown-violet and then ultramarine, precanceled brown-violet stamps, F.M.-overprinted ultramarine stamps; all 50c-overprinted stamps of 1941, stamped envelopes): a white shading line below extended arm is weak or missing; two dots on robe above the Q of BLIQUE.

Type II: (booklet stamps and stamped letter-cards): the white line is present, albeit thin and weak; only one dot in robe above the Q. (not shown)

Type III: (coil stamps): the white line is stronger; one dot, usually weak, in robe above the Q; machine-cut vertical coil perforations.



AN UNUSUAL ITEM OF FRENCH POSTAL STATIONERY

by Ray Gaillaguet (FCPS #621)

Figure 1 is a prepaid-reply postal card, properly used and with both parts unsevered. Although postal cards with prepaid replies were authorized in France on 1 July 1879 (and approved at an earlier date by the UPU) they were never a success. Recipients hesitated to post an item bearing a foreign stamp. Postal personnel abroad sometimes would ignore the validity of a prepaid reply. And the foreign sender would tend to affix his own country's postage just to play safe. These are the reasons why a properly used prepaid reply to the sender, without any additional postage stamps or postage due stamps, and from a foreign country, is far from common.

When I saw the item in a catalog, my first reaction was "philatelic concoction." I placed a rather low bid and, to my surprise, I won! When I received

the lot, I was delighted to see that the card had not originated with a philatelist but rather with a postcard collector, this being a popular hobby around the turn of the 19th Century and until WWI. In Spanish, the addressee informs the sender that he no longer collects postcards. It appears that the biggest senders of reply cards were postcard collectors. The fact that the card had not been prepared by a philatelist makes it that much more interesting.

Note that the sender had preaddressed the reply (an early SASE?).



Figure 1. 10c rose lined Sower reply card, undated, issued 1906. Top card posted Paris, 9 April 1907; reply card posted from Venezuela, 23 May 1907. (reduced to 81%)

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

- *La collection La Fayette -- Timbres mythiques de France*, by Michèle Chauvet; 75 euros (+5 euros mailed in France, 12 euros within European Community; inquire for elsewhere); by check, Visa or MasterCard, payable to Pascal Behr, 30 ave. de l'Opéra, F-75002 Paris. (A well-done analysis of the fabulous, recently sold La Fayette collection of French Classics, with emphasis on the covers' rates and routes).
- *Impressions / Expressions*; 60 euros (+ postage), from Service Philatélique de La Poste, 28 rue de la Redoute, F-92266 Fontenay-aux-Roses Cedex, France. (A profusely illustrated account of the various stamp-printing methods used in France since 1949; the price includes 31,26 euros face value of included postage stamps).
- *Poste rurale Var -- Arrondissements ruraux*, by R. Gregnac-Daudemard; details from the author at "Colline," boulevard des Arbousiers, F-83120 Sainte-Maxime, France. (A listing of the Var Dept. post offices, with identification and localization of the rural boxes and the known dates of their existence).
- *Cancels of the French Post Offices in Morocco, 1891-1917* (revised 2004 edition), by Solly Laredo; 38 pp., A4 format, perfect binding, illustrations of 125+ cancels; 13 euros (+ postage), from S.P.L.M., 206 boulevard Péreire, F-75017 Paris.
- *Les Vignettes de Monaco*, by Jerold M. Massler; 161 pp., illustrated; published 2003 by l'Arc-en-Ciel; information from the author at 4881 Griffin Road, Apt. 106, Davie, FL 33314.
- *L'Occupation Italienne de Menton (1940-1943)*, by Gianpaolo Guzzi; 90 pp., numerous illustrations; text in Italian and French; 25 euros (+ postage?), from author at Via A. Agnelli 24, 21013 Gallarate (VA), Italy. (The postal history of the WWII Italian occupation, with illustrations of the different date stamps used).
- *Catalogue DALLAY 2003-2004, Tome II* (Andorra, Monaco, TAAF, Europa), 504 pp., 14 x 21 cm, more than 4000 color illustrations; 18 euros (+ 16,62 euros postage to the U.S.); can be ordered using major credit card, to <http://www.philatelix.fr/produits/Cat/Dallay2003M.cfm> (The new Tome 1 (France) will be available from 6 June 2004; check their site).

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from N° 276, April 2004, p. 61)

- **850.)** One of our members has an apparently unrecorded Sage stamp. It is the 1c dark green on yellowish green Sage of 1876, fine impression, gummed and perforated, and appears genuine in all respects. What is different about it is that it is an uncatalogued Type II (U of REPUB over the N of INV). Would anyone care to comment on what this could be?
- **851.)** Monaco's green permanent-value stamp showing Prince Rainier III comes in two types. The original November 1998 stamp (Type I) differs from the 2003 reprinting made in March 2003 from a new cliché (Type II) in several aspects, as seen in the hair, in the ITVF 1999 and the SLANIA, and in the decorations at and below the collar (Figure 1).
- **852.)** For faster mail service in the early 1930s, along unfinished portions of the Trans-Indochina Railway, a vehicular Expedited Service (SERVICE ACCELERÉ) was provided in 1931 for a surtax of 5c (Indochinese currency). Special labels (Figure 2) were provided at post offices, first on red

paper, then in gray and finally in blue, though their use was not required as long as the surtax was prepaid. The service died upon 1936 completion of the Saigon-Hanoi rail line. (From article by Ron Bentley, in *The Indo-China Philatelist*, N° 162, March 2004).

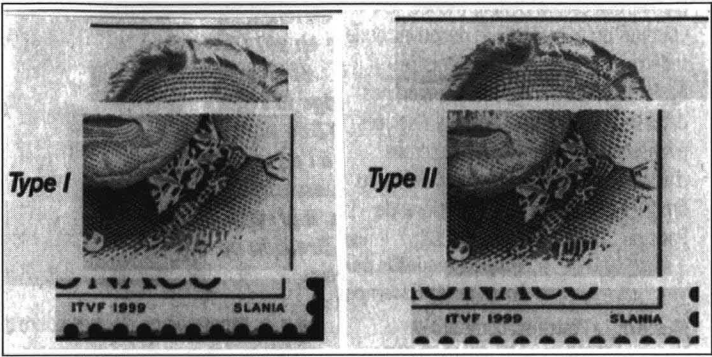


Figure 1.

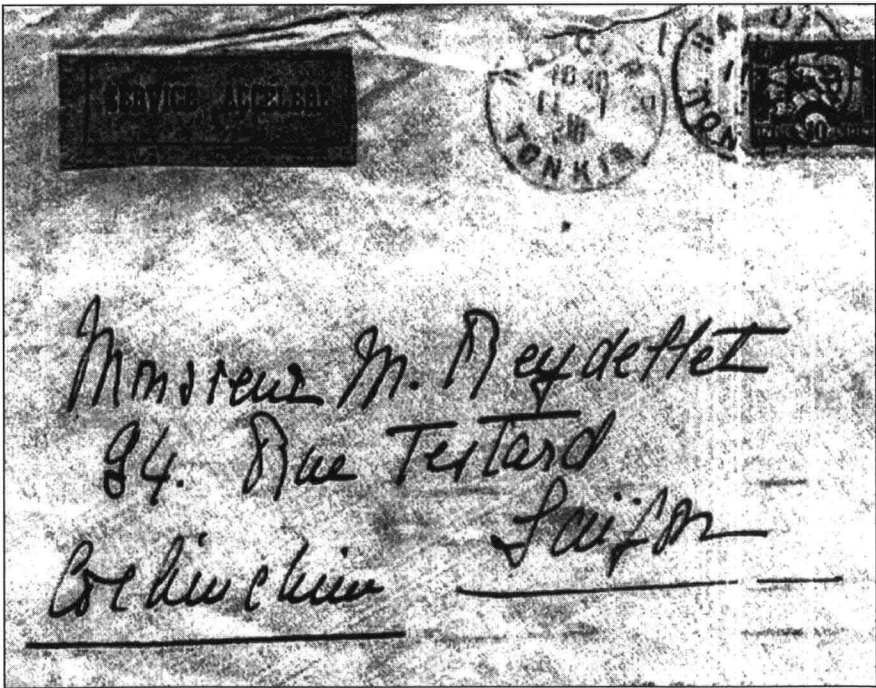


Figure 2.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q. 04.3.** This envelope, franked with a blue 15c Sage, went from Paris (11 July 1881) to Mme. the Widow Simmonet at Chalon-sur-Saône (12 July backstamp). It bears two weak strikes in blue "Saisie du 26 Juillet / le Juge d'Instruction / de Chalon-sur-Saône *" [seizure of 26 July / the examining magistrate / of Chalon-sur-Saône]. What might have been the purpose of this confiscation? The July 1881 dates are far earlier than the 1886 production and attempted use of the (in)famous Faux de Chalons. The stamp itself is completely genuine. Any ideas? (SJL).



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- > Very likely the most common of all perfin on French stamps is the **CL** of the Crédit Lyonnais banking firm. But did you know that there are at least 64 variants on that perfin, mainly due to the passage of time and to the various branches of the firm doing their own individual perforating? A possible collecting specialty? Perhaps for a single-frame exhibit? For detailed information, contact ANCOPEX (the French perfin society) at Boite Postale 80023, F-60321 Compiègne Cedex, France.
- > Eliot Landau has received the Chicago Philatelic Society's 2003 Newbury Award for his lifetime's contributions to philately.
- > Computer-generated postage (LISAs) made its initial appearance in New Caledonia on 12 March 2003. The light blue background on the etiquettes features a tropical coastal scene (Figure 1).
- > Monaco's recently issued Distingo 100 Suivi (Figure 2) is a very attractive, albeit large item of postal stationery. Like many other oversize stationery items, it may become valuable as well as elusive, though pretty hard to mount on an album or exhibition page.
- > According to *Le Bulletin du Cagou* (N° 23, 2003), which covers the philately of the French Pacific (and primarily New Caledonia), a large quantity of

mostly retired philatelic products issued since 2000 were destroyed (incinerated?) on 16 April 2003. While just over 3.5% of postage stamps and less than 1% of

sheetlets (*bloc-feuillets*) printed and issued remained to be destroyed, almost 50% of aerogrammes printed had been left unsold and were also destroyed. This proportion might well exist elsewhere within the French Community and, if so, does not bode well for the continued existence and use of aerogrammes. As per the "Concorde" and its philately, a potentially short-lived phenomenon.



Figure 1.

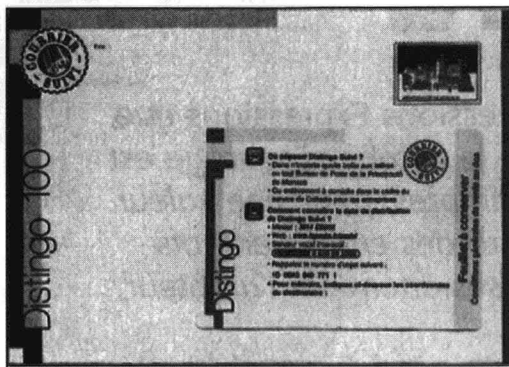


Figure 2.

- The Musée de la Poste at Paris has an unhardened die of a 1,95 [franc] Sabine de Gandon, apparently struck or received by the Musée on 23 June 1983. There was no such rate at any time before or since. Olivier Bernadet (*Marianne*, Bull. 65, 2003) suggests that the government might have considered raising the 1,80F rate to only 1,95F, before bringing it up to 2,00F on 1 June 1983.
- Ernst Cohn is the recipient of the Collectors Club of New York's Lichtenstein Memorial Award for 2004, for the sum of his considerable philatelic achievements and research over many productive decades.
- St. Martin and St. Barthélemy (French West Indies), hitherto administered by DOM (Overseas Dept.) Guadeloupe, voted 7 December 2003 to become separate TOMs (Overseas Territories). Might we expect stamps from these tiny islands in the near future? Including nudes? (St. Martin, in the northern part of French-Dutch St. Maarten, is renowned for its nude beaches).
- James Bendon, purveyor of many fine philatelic books including several on France and Colonies, is preparing to retire from that endeavour. Items in any quantity may be ordered by visiting his web site (www.JamesBendon.com), plus postage of US\$4 (or UK£2) per book [Items listing US\$20 (or UK£10) or less will be sent post free]; payment by check or bank draft; additional surcharge of 3% if using Visa or MasterCard. Discounts of 25% or more from list prices on orders of US\$2000 (or UK£1000)--which can be hard to achieve by non-literature dealers. Bigger discounts for bigger orders. Those without computer access can write to James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 56484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus. Some of the titles should sell out in a hurry.

- Registration of letters was terminated (until 1873) in France on 30 June 1854. Consequently, any registered mail that bears **imperfornate** Empire stamps, the first of which were issued September-December 1853, is both rare and desirable. (From article by J.-P. Magne, in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, March 2003).
- The Confederate Stamp Alliance's August Dietz Award, for exemplary research and publishing, was presented to Steve Walske for his 2003 study on mail across the lines at the start of the U.S. Civil War.
- Ron Bentley reports (*The Indo-China-Philatelist*, N° 162, 2004) an earlier first day of use of Indo-China's two-line Red Cross overprint (+/5/c) (Scott B1, Cérés 65). The date is Hanoi, 28 October 1914, on an Indo-China government letterhead envelope, which suggests that the stamp had been made available early to government users.
- Barbara Mueller received the Century of Service Award of the United State Stamp Society (formerly the BIA) as "unquestionably one of the most important philatelic researchers and writers of the 20th Century."
- The largest and most modern mail-sorting center in France opened 2 February 2004 at Gonesse (Val-d'Oise Dept.), northeast of Paris and close to Le Bourget airport. It will handle the mail of eight northern and eastern Paris *arrondissements*.
- Our hobby continues to face financial difficulties. The Postal History Society and its esteemed *Postal History Journal* may go under if membership continues its downward spiral (we know what that is!) and publication costs go up (we feel that too!). And *Timbres Magazine* is raising its price to cover costs of printing, paper, postage, and presumably salaries as well. We should be able to bear up under the extra cost of the latter, but how might the Postal History Society be saved? Suggestions include donating to their publication fund (but only after doing so for the FCPS publication fund, says your Editor!), and donating a membership to a friend or a local university library (in which last case, that would be tax deductible).
- The 0,50€ *rouge gorge* bird with holly sprig atop a snowy branch was issued as part of the 5€ 2004 Greetings booklet of 6 (10) November 2003. Little publicized was its other manifestation, as a single stamp within a limited-printing sheetlet that shows more of the tree (Figure 3). This was sold at first only at the Autumn Philatelic Salon (Paris). By March 2004 the sheetlet was bringing as much as 100€ on eBay, as well as the ire of

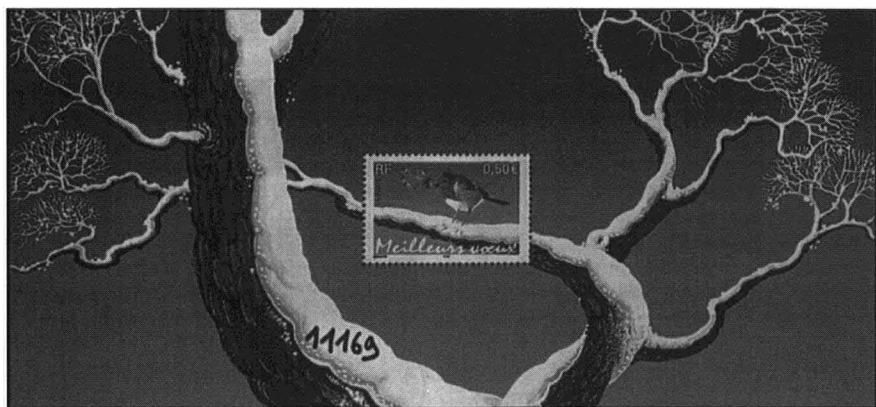


Figure 3.

collectors who had missed the opportunity of purchasing it for 3€ at either the Salon or after that closed, by mail only from the Service Philatélique de La Poste. The sheetlet's press run was a mere 50,000 and the item might be blacklisted by some catalog publishers for its minimal availability to the public.

- The 0,45€ Donald Duck stamp, issued 6 (8) March 2004 as part of the Walt Disney booklet, bears two phosphor bands instead of just one, even though that value is for the Ecopli (printed matter/slow mail) rate.
- France issued a 1,11€ Vassily Kandinsky stamp in its long-continuing Art Series on 5 (7) July 2003. Three varieties can already be recognized. These are the normal stamp, that with face value missing (Figure 4), and a third, described as follows: the "1,11€" rather than being printed in reddish brown, consists of a mix of red, yellow and black inks and is therefore slightly darker. This last variety occurs only on the stamps tipped into La Poste's picture book *Impressions / Expressions*, noted in this issue on page 92 under "New Books,..."



Figure 4.

- It is most unfortunate that North African (Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco) postal archives have considerable holes in their holdings, thanks to the fact that Vichyite officials (and to some lesser extent, Giraudist ones) ordered their destruction upon receiving news of the November 1942 Allied landings.
- George Guzzio notes a bit of a puzzler on page 39 of the April 2004 issue (N° 276). The pearls in Figure 1 do **not** touch the circle, as many or most of them should in genuine 1F Empires. Let's blame it on G. Bertrand's illustration (and its source), which happened to be the handiest one when writing the piece.
- APS Stampshow 2004, the nation's largest annual event for stamp collectors, will take place at the Sacramento (California) Convention Center, August 12-15, 2004. The show will feature about 150 dealers, first-day ceremonies, some 13,000 pages of exhibits, and more than 125 meetings and seminars. Admission is free. Full details, including lists of participating dealers and exhibits, and schedules of events, are being posted to <http://www.stamps.org/StampShow/intro.htm>. Our *Philatelist* will be entered in competition here, and also in NAPEX 2004, which will be held June 4-6 in McLean, Virginia, in the hope of attracting additional members to the Society.

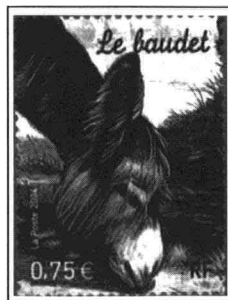
- The use of FRANCE at the bottom of current date stamps (see April 2004, N° 276, p. 62) had expanded, by late 2003, to some 13 post offices in major cities (three of them in Paris), and all but one CTCs (Centres de Traitement du Courrier). (from R. Sené in *Feuilles Marcophiles*, N° 315, 2003).
- The Musée de La Poste at Paris will be partially closed to the public 8 May - 20 September 2004 for renovation. The 15 rooms of permanent exhibits will remain open and the entrance fee will be waived.
- Some 20,000 pieces of mail were incinerated in an accident involving a La Poste truck on 24 March 2004, on the A3 at Seine-St-Denis. The mail was headed from the provinces to the Paris 10th and 11th *Arrondissements*.
- This past April, the *rouge gorge* sheetlet (Figure 3) reached a new high of 231 euros, at Bertrand Sinais' Paris auction. However, far higher realizations were obtained by some classic French India covers, indicating there's still hope and a market for real rarities. One dealer currently advertises he's buying the *rouge gorge* sheetlet for 80 euros.

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 276, April 2004, p. 66)

France

- 5 February 2004: open booklet of ten permanent-value M. de Luquet stamps, with cover publicity for the design contest for a new Marianne;
- 7 February: SAGEM vending-machine booklet of ten stamps with cover that is yellow on outside and white on stamp side;
- 6 (8) March: Walt Disney (Stamp Day) booklet at 5,90€, containing two Donald Ducks at 0,45, four Mickey Mouses at 0,50, and four Minnie Mouses at 0,75;
- 12 (15) March: 0,50€ Bicent. of the Civil Code;
- 20 (22) March: 0,50€ George Sand (1804-1876);
- 26 (29) March: 5€ sheetlet of ten 0,50 stamps on the good life in France; 0,50€ Clermont-Ferrand (statue of Vercingétorix by Bartholdi);
- 6 (7) April: 0,50€ and 0,75€ Centenary of the *Entente Cordiale* with Great Britain;
- 7 (8) April: 0,50€ road safety;
- 17 (19) April: 1,11€ Art of J.-L. Gérôme;
- 24 (26) April: Farm animals: 0,45 rabbit, 0,50 hen, 0,50 cow, 0,75€ donkey; 0,50€ Bordeaux (Gironde Dept.) (bridge and train);
- 1 (3) May: 0,50€ enlargement of the European Union;
- 7 (10) May: 0,50€ Homage to the fighters at Dien-Bien Phu;
- 9 (10) May: 0,50€ EUROPA 2004 (Vacations theme);
- 15 (17) May: "Blake and Mortimer" (fictitious English detectives) 0,50 and 1,00€;
- 21 (24) May: 0,50€ FIFA 1904-2004 (International football federation).



Withdrawals: 6 February 2004: 3F/0,46 Merci; 0,46 Invitation; 0,46 Anniversary; 0,46 Enterprise; 0,46 Best Wishes (and its 4,60 booklet); 12 March: 0,50 Notre-Dame de l'Epine, 0,50 Tulle (Corrèze); 0,50 Anniv. of French Freemasonry; 0,50 Church of St.-Père; 0,50 World Track and Field championships, Paris, S. Denis; 0,75 Paul Signac; 1,11 art of V. Kandinsky; 9 April: 0,46 and 0,69 Valentine Day (heart-shaped design by Torrente); 0,46 Merci (issued Jan. 2003); 0,46 Invitation (issued 2003?); 0,46 Philatelic Congress, Mulhouse.

Andorra (all values expressed in euros = €)

- 17 January 2004: 0,50 Encans de St. Antoine (procession?);
- 22 March: 0,50 Children of the World;
- 19 April: 1,11 Hotel Valira.

Withdrawals: 6 February 2004: 0,67 Les Bons architectural grouping; 1,02 Hôtel Mirador; 2,36 10th anniv. of the Constitution; 12 March: 0,46 Europa 2003; 9 April: 0,50 Fires of St. John

French Polynesia

- 22 January 2004: 130F Year of the Monkey;
- 13 February: 60F and 90F scenes of everyday life;
- 8 March: 90F Polynesian woman;
- 23 April: 500F Polynesian monuments and sites; 500F economic development in Polynesia;
- 14 May: 90F vanilla plant.

Withdrawals: 31 December 2003: Year of the Horse, the messages, Va'a world championships; underwater fauna, blood donation, World Cup, Heiva 2002.

Mayotte (all values expressed in euros = €)

- 10 March 2004: relief map of Mayotte: 0,01, 0,02, 0,50;
- 5 April: 0,90 Sada Bay: Mayotte butterflies: four at 0,50.



Monaco (all values expressed in euros = €)

- 29 January 2004: 0,50 40th Anniv. of the Princess Grace Foundation; 1,11 20th Anniv. of the Irish Library; 1,45 Daphne du Barry statue of Princess Grace; 1,90 20th Anniv. of the Princess Grace rose garden;
- 8 March: 0,75 frog and 4,50 lizard (definitive series);
- 5 April: 0,45 100th Anniv. of the "Maîtrise of the Cathedral"; 0,58 37th Int'l. bouquet competition; 0,90 Int'l. dog show;
- 3 May: EUROPA 2004 (vacations theme) two at 0,50; 0,90 50th Anniv. of Order of Grimaldi; Athens Olympics: two at 0,45 se-tenant.



New Caledonia

- 7 November 2003: Year of the Monkey, in sheetlet of two stamps at 100F each;
- 2 February 2004: 70F Year of the Monkey;
- 11 February: 100F Cagou bird definitive; 100F heart-shaped stamp for Valentine Day;
- 16 May: Noumea Aquarium: three at 100F;
- 17 May: 155F the New Caledonia railway.



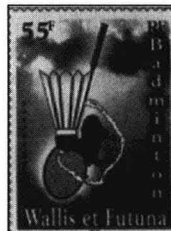
Withdrawals: 31 December 2003: Year of the Horse (and sheetlet); Valentine Day 2003; ancient hatchet; playing cricket; "Hobie Cat" championships; turtle block (Noumea Aquarium); World Cup Soccer.

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

- 3 December 2003: 0,50 Noël;
- 25 February 2004: 0,50 Joseph Lehuenen [not 15 January, as previously reported];
- 11 March: 0,75 artist's rendering of Rodrigue Cove;
- 25 March: 0,50 and 1,08 dolphins;
- 8 April: 0,90 the Ollivier Farm.

**Wallis & Futuna**

- 8 January 2004: 85F Goddess Havae Hikule'o; also in sheetlet of ten at 850F;
- 13 January: 75F "heading out in a kumete" (people in a small boat);
- 18 February: sheetlet of four stamps at 5, 10, 20 and 30F on fight against dengue fever;
- 12 March: 55F badminton;
- 31 March: 205F making kava;
- 22 April: Flowers of the islands 15, 25, 35 and 40F;
- 12 May: 300F and 380F first survey flight over Wallis (1936) (hydroplane).



Withdrawals: 31 December 2003: Finemu Teesi college; Year of women; firemen; Msgr. Pompallier; World Cup Soccer; World Environmental Day.

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I am very pleased to thank our Board of Directors for electing me president of the FCPS. I hope I can follow the excellent job done by outgoing president Dick Stevens who has given the Society nearly two decades of faithful and efficient service as our President. We also welcome our new Vice President, Ken Nilsestuen. Ken and I seem to be very compatible, and I am certain that he will do a fine job. Ken and I think of ourselves as the "kids" of the FCPS, but I noticed that my new member announcement appeared in the April 1986 *FCP*, and Ken had an address change listing there. So, I guess we have about 40-years of combined membership in our society. OK, maybe we're not exactly kids anymore.

Dues Increase

Elsewhere in this issue is an announcement of a dues increase. Although we all hate paying more for anything, I feel that the FCPS is still very much a bargain. Our journal is one of the finest for providing information to the membership, and our dues are comparable with other major societies. It is a simple matter of economics, when printing and postage costs rise, we all have to accept the fact. I hope all members will remain with us during this transition.

My "Platform"

The roots of the FCPS lead directly to New York City and the Collector's Club of New York. In the early years, there was a large and very active group of interested philatelists in New York. As the organizers of our Society, our bylaws are focused on this core group. Through the decades, the FCPS has grown into a national and international society. For some reason, our meetings and participation in exhibitions are not well-attended. To this end, I will be asking our Board to amend the bylaws in several areas.

Most importantly, I hope to raise our profile and create an environment that will foster more interaction among the membership. The foremost change will be to allow the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held at a venue selected by the BOD. The most obvious way to do this is to have our meeting at each annual APS Stampshow, or perhaps at the APS winter show, depending on the location of the venue. Typically, more members of all societies attend these major shows. To this end, I have scheduled a meeting room for us at Stampshow 2005 to be held in Grand Rapids, MI in August 2005. This will either be an "official" meeting if our bylaws have been changed, or simply an unofficial get together if not. In either case we can see if more interaction and comradeship can be generated.

I hope to increase our interaction and participation with our sister organizations the France and Colonies Society of Great Britain and Col.Fra in France. To this end, I plan to reserve meeting space at Washington 2006 so that we can have a joint meeting (format to be determined) with any visiting overseas collectors. I have already contacted the presidents of both groups to get their thoughts on such a meeting.

Finally, I will work with our esteemed editor, Stan Luft, to see what ways we can use to contain *FCP* costs while continuing to have a superior journal. My own editorial and computer experience will be brought to bear on this issue.

Well, I don't want to wear out my welcome with this first note, so I will close by again thanking the board for their vote of confidence in me and Ken.

-- David L. Herendeen

A Brief Introduction to your new Vice President

Stan Luft introduced Dave Herendeen and me when we were both his houseguests during last May's Rocky Mountain Stamp Show. One of our many conversation topics was our fine society and the desire of its leaders to pass the torch. I was impressed by Dave's ideas and agreed to consider the vice presidency. You can see that I accepted the invitation.

I have collected French colonial stamps since I was a child. That started because I wanted to complete a country at the back of the alphabet in my Scott International album, and I chose Wallis and Futuna. My specialty turned to French Africa in the 1970s, and I slowly added some postal history as the missing stamps got more expensive and hard to find. By the mid 1980s I focused on Algeria, which is still my principal interest. I have exhibited my Algerian collection twice in national shows, earning a vermeil and gold medal. You will find a few of my articles in the *France and Colonies Philatelist* over the years. I am a newly accredited APS judge and a member of several national philatelic societies in addition to this one.

I am a CPA by day, employed by one of the Big Four international accounting firms. My wife and I have four grown children. We make our home in Akron, Ohio, where we have lived for more than twenty years.

I am interested in helping Dave execute his ideas to improve our society, to listen to you and to team with the other officers and directors to strengthen and grow our membership. Please reach out to me at any time you have a suggestion for improvement or a need that our group can fulfill. I look forward to meeting many of you at stamps shows or otherwise. -- Ken

Dues Increase

As shown in the Treasurer's Report published in the April 2004 issue, the Society operated at a significant deficit in 2003. There will almost certainly be a larger deficit in 2004. The deficit is, as usual, primarily influenced by ever increasingly higher printing and postage costs. It is not prudent to permit this trend to continue in 2005. Therefore, the Board has decided to increase the dues by \$5.00 per year. Last year we raised the prestige of our *Philatelist* by switching to a glossy stock for our cover, and this year we are increasing its size by 12 pages. We believe that our Journal is and will continue to be a quality product well worth the added cost. At \$20 for U.S. members, our dues will easily be in line with those of other similar societies.

NEW MEMBERS

- 3320 LAND, GEORGE, Box 434, Camp Meeker, CA 95419. (No Specialty Given).
- 3321 McADAM, DANIEL, P.O. Box 117, Bonoseen, VT 05732. (General France: Mint - Used. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used. Colonies General Issues: Mint. All Colonies & Territories). Philatelic Literature.
- 3322 HASKELL, MICHAEL J., 5549 East Press Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85254-2966. (No Specialty Given).
- 3323 DeBOARD, ROBERT, P.O. Box 3015, Edmond, OK 73083. (General France: Mint, Andorre. Monaco. All Colonies And Territories. French Polynesia. Tahiti, etc. Especially Interested in Artists Proofs).
- 3324 GEORGE, WILLIAM, 305 Regent Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112-3371. General France: Mint - Used-On Cover-to 2000. Stampless Covers. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Mint, Used, on Cover. 1870-1971 Alsace-Lorraine. Plating Of Scott #15. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint, Used, on Cover. Blanc, Mouchon. Sowers. Coils. Slogan Cancels. Proofs & Color Trials. Philatelic Literature. Exchange).
- 3325 PETRONE, JOE, P.O. Box 190842, Dallas, TX 75219-0842. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - On Cover. Exchange. Corner Blocks).

REINSTATEMENTS

- 368 MALMGREN, RALPH T., P.O. Box 409, Melvin Village, NH 03850-0409.
- 2830 BROADHEAD, THOMAS W., 444 Tazewell Pike, Knoxville, TN 37918-2705.
- 2977 BEAUNE, BOB, 44 Fairway Drive, Edmonton, Alberta 76J 2C3, Canada
- 2946 TURPIE, MARTIN, 243 Prospect St., East Longmeadow, MA 01028-2863.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 1605 SPONG, COLIN WALTER, 3 Balmadral Court, Grand Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 5AX, England.
- 3121 JETER, JOSEPH R., 645 S. Rough Creek Court, Granbury, TX 76048-2904.
- 2596 GILBERT, OTHAN, P.O. Box 2440, Crystal River, FL 34423-2340.
- 3295 MONEY, LLOYD J., 98 Breckenwood Way, Sacramento, CA 95864.
- 2994 PEACOCK, JOHN E., 9 Osprey Dr., Coventry. RI 02816-0520.
- 3148 BARBER, TRACY, Micro Computer Consultant, 17 Hill Street, Keeseville, NY 12944.
- 3303 NOSAKA, MARILYN, 1211 14th Ave., Apt. 101, San Francisco, CA 94122-2147.

A COVER STORY

In 1914 British and French forces occupied German Togo, and soon were overprinting German Togo stamps. This was followed at different times by British overprinting of Gold Coast stamps and by French overprinting of Dahomey stamps. But not all mail from French Togo was franked with overprinted stamps. The Figure 1 cover, from Anecho, Togo, 11 September 1915 to the U.S. (perhaps somewhat philatelic in aspect) received a same-day German Lomé transit backstamp (note the inverted "6" for a "9", for September). The Dahomey 25c stamp, correct UPU franking, is **not** overprinted. That it wasn't is not particularly unusual (*viz.* Bill Mitchell's article in N° 276, April 2004, pp. 35-37, wherein Bill indicates this 1915 usage predates the release of overprinted Dahomey stamps), but is far from commonplace. Or, as Larry Lambert suggests, the cover may have been given to the ship's purser in Dahomey prior to its departure, and not cancelled until the purser could visit the Anecho P.O. In any case, it's an interesting cover. -- Alan Morvay



Figure 1. (reduced to 65%)