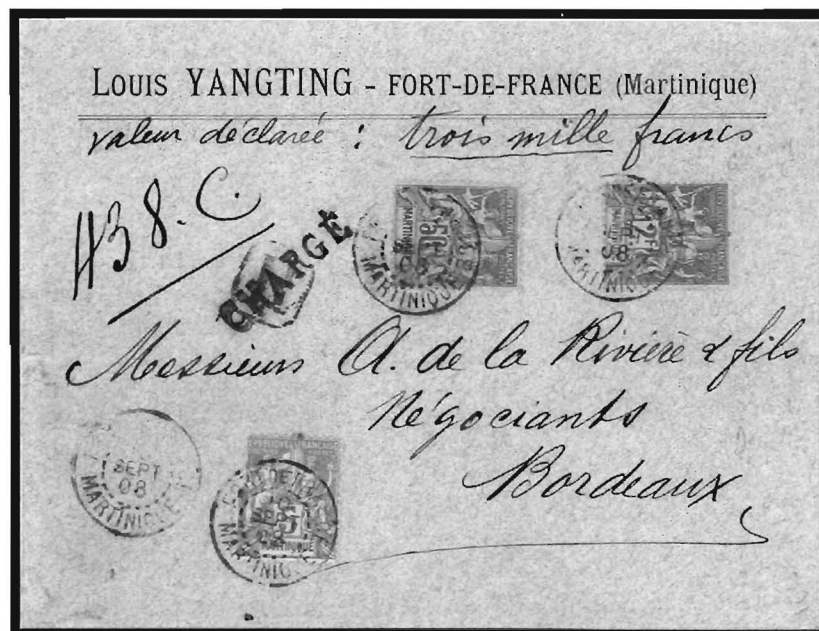


FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

July 2008
Whole No. 293 (Vol. 64, No. 3)



Blum's Lowered 1947 Tariff. See page 55.



Second use of a 2f Group Type found. See page 63.

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World War II - The Colonies "General Issues" Charity Stamps: a Second Supplement

Bill Mitchell (FCPS 715)

A chance remark by fellow FCPS member **Colin Spong** has enabled me to add a few more pieces to the jigsaw puzzle set out in my two previous articles^{1,2} on these money-spinners printed in Algiers and also placed on sale in Corsica and southern France. Catalogues for the French colonies devote very little space to these issues, but Colin's remark led me to see what has been recorded by Dallay in their fairly recent addition to the catalogues of France.³ I struck lucky, particularly with regard to the first of these issues, the one sponsored by the *Comite Francaise de la Liberation Nationale*. It appeared in two parts, a set of five inscribed *Aide aux Combattants et Patriotes* (Y&T 60-64)⁴ followed by a single 1.50fr + 98.50fr (!) stamp for *Aide aux Resistants* (Y&T 65). The following details of these are given in Dallay.

Combattants

Designed by A. Bodiniet and engraved by Charles Hervé; printed by lithography in sheets of 25, initially 300,000 sets but increased to 400,000 on 18 December 1943; (first) issued "sans doute" on 25 October 1943; withdrawal date originally 31 January 1944 but later extended to 31 March 1944; distributed on 18 October 1943 in the quantities shown in Table 1. As seen in Fig. 1,³ there were two designs, one for the four lower values, and a different one for the high value.



Figure 1. The two designs for the Combattants issue, left the four low values, right the high value.

Resistants

Shown in Fig. 2, this stamp was designed "sans doute" by René Rostagny "(dit Gaston RY)"; the engraver is not named; printed by E. Imbert (Stanley Gibbons⁵ records that this stamp, too, was printed by lithography) in sheets of 10, total 100,000 of which 20,000 were "fautés," which I assume means printed to an unacceptable standard or rendered unusable in some other way such as humidity; issued "sans doute" — again(!) — between 16 and 26 November 1943; withdrawal dates as for the *Combattants* set; distribution also as for the *Combattants* set on 3

November 1943. It is now apparent that these stamps were sent to all the French Colonies and Associated Territories except for Indo-China which was still under Japanese occupation. [Using the "three strikes and you're out" rule, this is one "sans doute" too many. It makes me think there is much to "doute." — Ed.]



Figure 2. The 100 fr Resistants issue.

	<i>Aide aux Combattants et Patriotes</i>	<i>Aide aux Résistants</i>
Yvert Nos. ¹	60-64	65
Dallay Nos. ²	1-5	6
Colony/Territory		
Corsica	10,000	4,000
A.E.F. (French Equatorial Africa)	15,000	5,000
A.O.F. (French West Africa)	25,000	8,000
Algeria	90,000	30,000
Cameroon	10,000	3,000
French Somali Coast	1,000	300
Guadeloupe	15,000	5,000
French Guiana	5,000	2,000
Indian Settlements	1,500	500
Lebanon	10,000	3,000
Madagascar	25,000	8,000
Morocco	40,000	15,000
Martinique	15,000	5,000
New Caledonia	1,000	500
"	500	300
Oceania	2,000	600
Reunion	2,000	600
Saint Pierre & Miquelon	500	200
Syria	10,000	3,000
Tunisia	20,000	6,000
Totals	298,500	100,000
1. As Colonies General Issues		
2. As Guerre de 1939-1945 (C.F.L.N.)		

Table 1. Quantities distributed to Corsica and the colonies in 1943.

Comparing these details with those set out in my previous two articles, in both cases the dates for withdrawal agree; otherwise there are discrepancies. The initial printing quantity of the *Combattants* set agrees, but I have no other information about the increase to 400,000 in December, nor have I any alternative authority for the 100,000 of the *Résistants* stamp or the quantity "fautes" — the arrêté of 16 November 1943 which added this stamp makes no reference to the quantities to be printed.

The dates of issue are interesting. 26 October is the date of the arrêté originally authorizing the *Combattants* set; the earlier of the dates, 16 November 1943, given for the *Résistants* stamp is likewise the date of the relevant arrêté (both are reproduced on pages 80 and 81 of the Philatelist for October 2006). Since in both cases the stamps had already been distributed, they must have been printed in advance and

placed on sale (in Algiers at any rate) as soon as formal approval of their issue was given (there is some doubt about the single stamp).

Solidarite Française

The catalogue is less helpful about the two *Solidarité Française* stamps of 1944 (Y&T 66 and PA1) shown in Fig. 3; presumably fewer facts have come to light so far. Y&T 66 was engraved by Charles Hervé but the designer is not named either on the stamp or in the catalogue. It was printed by lithography in sheets of 25 by "Heintz;" the total printed was 500,000 copies and the release date was 12 May 1944. The airpost stamp was designed by M. Patten and engraved — again — by Hervé, but there are no details of the printer (was it also "Heintz"?); 1,000,000 copies were printed, likewise by lithography in sheets of 25, and the date of issue is given as September 1944.

So the jigsaw is not complete. Who printed the 1943 *Combattants* issue — "Heintz" again? Who authorized the additional 100,000 copies of the same set and was it publicized at all? The aggregate distributed as shown in Dallay's Table (298,500) is pretty close to the 300,000 originally authorized, but what happened to the extra 100,000 — were they sent to France or were they printed to make good stamps considered unusable? Why is there no record of faults for this earlier set? As for the single *Résistants* stamp, why the uncertainty about the date of issue and what is the significance of the later date, 26 November? The aggregate distributed (100,000) is the same as the total printed, but what of the 20,000 "fautes"? Were they returned to Algiers as unusable? As regards both issues, was the small additional supply sent to



Figure 3. The Solidarité Française designs.

New Caledonia intended for the Wallis & Futuna Islands? The details of *Offices postaux intéressés* in the 1943 issues promised in the original official documents¹ has not come my way, nor have any published details of the amounts distributed to charities. And much is not known to me about the 1944 stamps. Most importantly, how many were distributed — and to where?

When I began to write about these stamps I never imagined that I would find so much of interest about them. Perhaps one day I will be able to write a *suite et fin* article and bring the matter to a close.

References

1. Mitchell, W., World War II - The Colonies "General Issues" Charity Stamps, *France and Colonies Philatelist*, **62**(4), October 2006, pp 80-84.
2. Mitchell, W., World War II - The Colonies "General Issues" Charity Stamps: A Correction and an Addendum, *France and Colonies Philatelist*, **63**(4), October 2007, p 91.
3. *Timbres de France*, Dallay S.A.R.L., Paris, 2005-2006. Stamps in all figures have been scanned from this source.
4. *Catalogue Yvert & Tellier, Tome 2, 1re Partie, Timbres des Colonies Françaises*, Yvert et Tellier, Amiens, 2006.
5. Stanley Gibbons

SHOW REPORTS

- ♦ ARIPEX (Mesa, AZ, Feb 2008): Gold medals to **Stan Luft** for his "Post Offices of the Annexed Paris Suburbs to the 1880s," which was also awarded both the APS pre-1900 Award and the prestigious APS Research Award, and to **Steve Tucker** for his of "Pan American's Pacific Clippers 1935-1942," which was also awarded the APC Award for excellence in writing.
- ♦ Garfield-Perry (Cleveland, Mar 2008): A Gold medal to **Paul Larsen** for his "German Togo 1885-1914," also the Donald W. Goertz Award of Best Foreign Exhibit. A Vermeil medal to **Mike Bass** for "Foreign Post Offices in the Holyland 1852-1914," which also received the AAPE Award of Honor. **Dave Herendeen** served on the jury.

- ♦ Filatelic Fiesta (San Jose, CA, Mar 2008) A Gold to **Bob Kinsley** for "The French Conquest of Europe 1792-1814," to **Al Kugel** for "Postal History of the American Forces in China 1900-1941," and **Roger Quinby** for "Postal Censorship in Finland 1914-1918," which also received the Ed and Pat Laveroni Award of Merit. **Ken Nilsestuen** served on the jury.
- ♦ TEXPEX (Dallas, Apr 2008): A Vermeil medal to **Ralph DeBoard** for "French Polynesia, The Regular Issue of 1958: Design, Production, and Usages," also the AAPE Award of Honor.
- ♦ WESTPEX (San Francisco, Apr 2008): A Gold medal to **Steve Walske** for his exhibit "Heart of the West: San Francisco as a postal hub from 1849 to 1869," also the Collectors Club of San Francisco Reserve Grand Award and the APC Award for excellence in writing. **Paul Larsen's** exhibit "Barbados Seal Issues 1892-1935," won both a show Gold and a BCPSG Gold. **Dave Herendeen** served on the jury.
- ♦ Plymouth Stamp Show (Plymouth, MI, Apr 2008): Gold medals to **Eliot Landau** for "Classic France: Postal History of the Ceres and Napoleon Issues of 1849-75," and the **Al Kugel** for "The Postal History of Bosnia-Herzegovina 1842-1918." **Steve Washburne** received a Vermeil for "Portugal—The Lusiadas Issue 1931-1934."

Election Results

The following candidates for FCPS officers and directors were elected by the membership and officially took office at the annual meeting held at NAPEX in June.:

President	Kenneth R. Nilsestuen
Vice President	Norval L. Rasmussen
Treasurer	William Wallis
Corresponding Secretary	Joel L. Bromberg
	Dr. John H. Bloor
Directors: Class of 2012	Jeffrey C. Bohn
	Dr. Martin F. Stempien, Jr.

We Get Letters...

I am very heartened in that I received a number of replies to my question about printing occasional articles, written by our members in France, in French. As you will see, they were generally in favor of the idea with several suggestions. I hope other members will express their opinions. Please understand that I would not expect to publish more than 1-2 pages per issue in French.

Editor:

Regarding your inquiry about printing any future articles in *La Belle Langue*, let me say that I'm completely in favor of it. If we members of the Society weren't interested in **some** aspect of French culture or history, I doubt that we would **be** in the Society.

Our language skills, I am sure, are extremely varied, so it might be a good idea when (**not if**) French language articles are accepted to run them side-by-side with the English translation. If you do this, I'd be glad to help translate.

Bob Darcy, FCPS 2645

Editor:

I like the idea of articles in French. My French is somewhat limited, but I can get the general idea of the article. Perhaps the author can add a short list of unusual words or idiomatic sayings.

Keep up the great work!

Joe Petronie, FCPS 3225

Editor:

Just a very quick reply to your request for comments (latest FCP) on articles in French Language. **MAIS OUI!!**

However, I am absolutely NOT fluent or even close in reading (much less speaking) the French language. So an English/French dictionary must be kept close. Often, "technical" French can be difficult to get the exact meaning—but this cannot be helped.

My suggestion would be to have a couple (or more if practical) illustrations that can help the less than adept members follow the article accompany the article. It is true that often a "picture is worth a thousand word."

I always enjoy reading the journal.

Greg Cykman, FCPS 3022

Editor:

My thanks to you and Stan [Luft]. Since I seem to be falling ever faster ($a=32 \text{ ft/sec}^2$) into the black hole called WWII postal history, particularly US-France postal communications, I'm going to join France and Colonies Philatelic Society. Then, as a duly authorized *Seeker of Truth*, I can approach the gentlemen Stan recommended.

Larry Sherman. San Diego, CA

Mr. Sherman had requested specific information and we were pleased to help him locate possible answers to his questions through Stan Luft. One of the great FCPS membership advantages, if one uses it, is the networking with other members who have detailed knowledge of subjects after decades of study. — Ed.

Beslu Publishes New Book

Member **Christian Beslu** of Papeete, Tahiti has published a new book entitle *Naufrage à Okaro*. This book, which is non-philatelic, tells the epic story of the voyages of the corvette Alcène in the Pacific Ocean from 1848 to 1851. The story gives us an overview of real life conditions, attitudes, and behavior during this period of colonial conquest in the Pacific. The history of this boat was reconstructed from the stories and newspapers articles with recounts of the voyage by the crew. From the Straits of Magellan, the Marquesas, New Caledonia to New Zealand, Alcène experienced storms, cannibalism, fear and misery. One third of the crew never returned to France. An excellent historical read.

It is available from the author at BP 5073, Pirae 98716 French Polynesia. The listed price is 17, but it might be more to the US.

Submitted by S. J. Luft

The Place in Philately of Blum's Lowered 1947 Tariff

Arnaud de La Mettrie (FCPS 1773)

[Capt. de La Mettrie is a member of the Académie de Philatélie and the Académie Européenne de Philatélie and a prolific writer on numerous philatelic subjects. He is also a long-time member of our Society. This article, on a poorly understood and hitherto undocumented subject that should be of interest to our readers, has been loosely translated as well as somewhat shortened from the French original, published in the January 2008 issue of "Timbres magazine". The translator, who cannot possibly emulate Arnaud's brilliant prose, takes full responsibility for any errors made in the course of this translation.

This article has not only been translated, but also updated by M. de La Mettrie (for which he gets our warmest thanks) to include new information that has come to light since his article was originally published].

Metropolitan France has surcharged but two percent of its stamps to serve new postal rates or to celebrate special events. Thus, there were only a few times that overprinting was used to increase the face value, and, as we shall see, even one instance where the value was reduced.

In anticipation of considerably higher domestic postal rates (Decree of 26 December 1946), whereby the ordinary letter rate (up to 20 gm), was to be raised from 3F to 5F, a new 5F *Gandon* was ordered printed by rush order, as the increase was to take effect the morning of 1 January 1947. The announcement was met with consternation and with threats to write far less often. Just think; an increase of 66.66% as a New Year's present!

The 5F Gandon

The stamp (Scott 542A, Yvert 719A), shown in Fig. 1, was printed from 24 December 1946 until 13 January 1947 in panes of 100 stamps from ten cylinders, for a total of some 150 million stamps, and mostly already printed by the First of the year. Used alone on letters within Metropolitan France, it could serve only on the



Figure 1. The 5F Marianne de Gandon of 1947.

two days of Wednesday, 1 January, and Thursday, 2 January. In effect, the "Blum decrease", effective that same New Year's Day, lowered the rate by 10%. By decree of 2 January 1947, effective 3 January the ordinary letter rate became 4F50.

For lack of stamps of this face value, the postal authorities decided to sell, from 3 January, the new 5F *Gandon* for only 4F50. This was the only case [in France] where a stamp was sold below its face value!

Whereas this sale at a loss was immediately acceptable in Paris, it required several days for it to be understood in the provinces, as confirmed by a telegram of Monday, 6 January from the director for the *Gironde Département*. to his postmasters, stating that the 5F stamp was to be exclusively for domestic mail, but sold at only 4F50.

The 4F50 Gandon

On 23 January 1947, three weeks after that official decision, the 4F50 ultramarine *Marianne de Gandon* (Fig. 2) made its appearance, printed in a quantity of 889.7 million stamps. The State thus proved itself capable of



Figure 2. The 4F50 Marianne de Gandon of 1947.

making quick decisions, which might have impressed the populace if it weren't for the fact that the rate still had climbed by 50%.

Once the administration had been advised to reduce the rate by 10%, it may first have considered saving time by following the 1946 example of Belgium by simply preparing a "-10%" surcharge. A postal employee accordingly thus may have prepared one or a few sheets of the 5F, by official request or on his own initiative, but which were negated by his superiors. No examples exist in the archives. A part of this essay may have "evaporated" from the employee's possession or from the administration's vaults. Please remember that an "essay" is made of only a few examples whereas an "unissued" stamp can be made in large quantities. But right now, we are merely testing this, our hypothesis.

The Surcharge

At this time, 115 examples of the 5F Gandon bearing the "-10%" surcharge have been recorded. In the original article, the following important items were described:

- ♦ An unused block of ten with a 26 December 1946 *coin daté* [dated corner block]. That is the date of the Decree that set the now ephemeral tariff that raised the letter rate to 5F. It is also the second day of printing of the 5F stamp. This suggests that the minis-



Figure 4.

ter, who had authorized the stamp, may have decided that the stamp's days were numbered. The block, in the possession of a Paris dealer, has been noted in the Dally catalog since the first (2001) edition. It is reproduced here (Fig. 3) with the firm's permission.

A single mint stamp (Yvert 781A) is listed at 11,000€. Therefore, the block should have a minimum value of 110,000€, without taking into consideration the value were it divided into blocks or pairs. But presently, it is worth considerably more than an unused 1F vermilion of 1849! Though far less known and far less searched for, it is far rarer than the vermilion.

- ♦ An unused block of eight with sheet margin at right (Fig. 4).



Figure 3. Block of 10 with coin daté (printing date) of 26 December 1946.

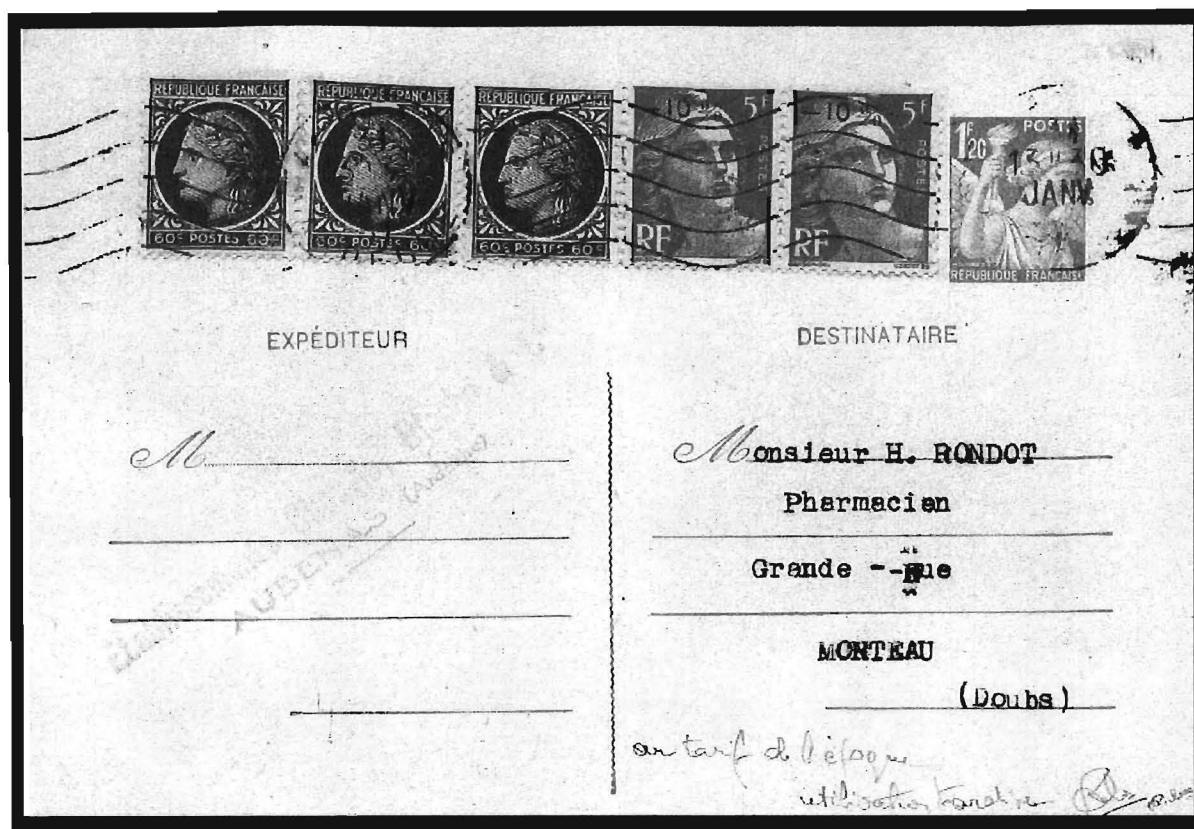



Figure 5. The only known “use” of the surcharge on postal card.

- ♦ An unused block of four from lower left corner of sheet that was offered at auction by the Berck firm in November 1987.
- ♦ A used pair dated 30 January 1951, on a postal card from the firm *Chauvin, Blèche & Cie* to *Aubenais*. (Fig. 5)¹ Its total franking of 12F² must have included 10F of the surcharged stamps even though the 5F stamp had been demonetized as of 1 April 1947,³ and had no postal value in 1951. The postman neither noticed the surcharge nor taxed the card at double the underpayment, as he was supposed to do. At the time of the Feldman sale, apparently no one was alerted to bid against the eventual buyer, even though that stamp had been noted in the Berck catalog as being “unissued, with surcharge” — which certainly should have legitimized it in the eyes of amateur and professional philatelists.
- ♦ Finally, an unused single, signed by an expert, appeared as Lot 4096 of Atout Phil 31st auction of 30 November 2001 (Fig. 6). Offered at 30,000F, it sold for 35,010F.

ATOUT Phil
10, RUE DE CHATEAUDUN, 75009 PARIS
Tél.: 01.40.16.91.57 – Fax: 01.40.16.91.95


Lot n° 4096

30^e et 31^e VENTES SUR OFFRES
Clôture de la 30^e vente le vendredi 23 novembre 2001
Clôture de la 31^e vente le vendredi 30 novembre 2001

Exposition des lots du jeudi 15 novembre au jeudi 22 novembre de 10 h à 12 h et de 14 h à 18 h
(sauf week-end)

Figure 6. First publicly auction example.

The Justice

The fortunate buyer of this unused stamp, overjoyed to have acquired a stamp that completed and greatly increased the value of his specialized collection of surcharges on the *Mariannes de Gandon*, showed the collection at the 27 October 2002 interregional competition at *Poitiers*. Unfortunately for him, the jury decided that the -10% surcharge was not the product of an official decision nor that there existed any trace of its creation, thereby downgrading his exhibit.

The buyer, miffed but not discouraged, beseeched the postal museum and several experts for some words to negate the jury's opinion. All confirmed the absence of any documentation on the subject.

Then, on 18 June 2003, without any agreement with the seller, the buyer went before the *Tribunal at Angoulême*, asking to void the sale according to Articles 1110 and 1117 of the *Code Civil* and to return the purchase price. On 13 October 2004, the buyer was rebuffed by the Tribunal.

[Here follow more trials and tribulations in the case of the buyer of the Atout Phil stamps, that are beyond my comprehension and most likely would not interest our readers. Suffice to say that on 9 November 2006, the Cour d'Appel de Bordeaux agreed that the unissued stamp, bearing the -10% surcharge, can be explained by the circumstances of its time].

In defense of the experts, it was said that the stamp in question had not been presented nor explained in its proper context by its owner, at the time of the *Poitiers* exposition. But we need no longer return to that stamp in question.

Conclusion

A stamp can be signed by an expert while another refuses to do so. The *Tribunal at Angoulême* decides against the buyer whereas the Court at Bordeaux decides that the stamp, although unissued, is a real stamp even though it was never sold over-the-counter.

We knew of the existence of these 25 stamps (10+8+4+2+1) when the article first appeared, and we thought they were all from the same

pane of 100 stamps. This suggested that some of their "little brothers" remain to be found. Since the original article appeared, 90 more stamps have appeared in the philatelic market. All have been signed by noted expert Calves. Thus, the 115 stamps now known means that at least two sheets of 100 were overprinted.

This is a surcharge that multiplies the actual value of the rose-pink 5F Gandon innumerable times, quite likely far more than that of the first "Orphelin" set of 1917-19, Scott B3-B10.

After having expressed our appreciation to Atout Phil, to M. Dewulf, to the Dallay firm, and to the proud possessor of the block of eight, who furnished much of the documentation herein, what may we deduce? Actually nothing very new, for if the price given in catalogs is only the viewpoint of a group of dealers and more or less follows the laws of supply and demand, the actual value will continue to be what a buyer is willing to pay, and only he should be the one who can make that determination.

Translated by S. J. Luft

Endnotes

1. This item was offered as Lot 31382 in the David Feldman sale of 7-10 June 2006.
2. Tariff of 6 January 1949-1 July 1957
3. Decree N° 47-434 of 12 March 1947, in *Bulletin Officiel* N° 17 of 20 June 1947, page 349.

Other Journals

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, December, 2007. Cameroun *Taxe Marks* (M. Bratzel), 'Detained in France during the German Occupation' - an Update (R. Reader), *Boules de Moulins* (A. Lawrence), and Printed Envelopes with Directional Markings from Saigon (I. McQueen).

Documents Philatéliques, January, 2008. *Le poinçon au type Aigle* (M. Chauvet), *Origine et utilisation de timbres à date Poste aux armées T.O.E.* (J. Goanvic), *Mashonaland 1898. Une carte postale taxée conte son histoire.* (R. Abensur) and *Les envois urgents et les prestations spéciales en dehors des heures ordinaires d'ouverture des guichets postale suisses 1912-2004* (L. Vuille et F. Barnier).

80th Anniversary of the *Académie de Philatélie*

David L. Herendeen (FCPS 2532)

On our recent trip to Paris (see page xx), I was fortunate to have been invited to a special meeting of the *Académie de Philatélie* held on 20 June at l'Hôtel Bedford. The festivities not only included the normal presentation of research papers, but also the 80th anniversary dinner that was held at the same hotel.

The *Académie de Philatélie*, not well known among Americans, was founded in 1928, and has pursued its goals tirelessly, generation after generation.

Since its inception, its main purpose has been to "contribute to the development of philately in all possible ways." The *Académie* does not have a physical presence, instead it is a group of philatelists all of whom have been elected to their positions. This was true even at the founding of the organization in 1928, when a referendum was held by the magazine "The Philatelic Messenger." Nearly 5,000 voters cast secret ballots to elect the first members of the group. None of the initial members was nominated, all votes were, as we would say, write-in candidates. It was not mandatory to be a member, and the famous Theodore Champion declined — a decision he reversed a few years later.

The only criterion for election is the "Philatelic quality" of the candidate. A candidate's profession and commercial associations is not considered.

With few exceptions, all of the major French philatelists have been members. These have included names familiar to most French-area specialists including Brun (both A. and J.-F.), Burrus, Champion, Gilbert, Pothion, Salles, and Yvert. Foreign members have included Caspary, Chase, the "Dynasty" Diena, Lichten-

stein, Marriott, Edwin Mueller, and many more.

In addition to numerous articles about the *Académie* published in the press, a 1986 TV special featured the organization. On the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary in 1978, the Academy of philately was honored by a special postage stamp issue.



Purpose

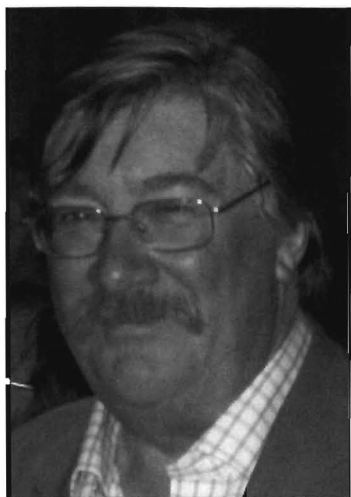
The purpose of the *Académie*, defined by statute, is to centralize philatelic studies and research, assist in their dissemination, contribute to the development of philately, to spread a love of stamp collecting, and to represent philatelists in national and international events. It archives these goals quite well, especially through the publication of many fine philatelic studies.

Permanent Members

By the bylaws of 1929, the *Académie de Philatélie* has only 40 permanent members. Currently, six of these seats is vacant. FCPS can be pleased that three of these are also members of our group. They are **Robert Abensur** (the current president of the *Académie*), **Arnaud de La Mettrie** (see his article on page 53), and **Alain Millet**. Not surprisingly, permanent members must be French.

Corresponding Members

A second group of members, currently numbering 25, are called *membres correspondants*. These are philatelists who do not qualify for full permanent membership, but who do attend meetings and contribute in an active manner. Two of our UK members, **George Barker** and **Peter R. A. Kelly**, hold this membership.



FCPS member
Peter R. A. Kelly
of the UK



FCPS member
Alain Millet
of France

Associated Foreign Members

There is a special membership category for philatelists who are not French — *membres associés étrangers*. FCPS is pleased that all six of these members from the U.S. are also members of our society. They are: **Jeff Bohn**, **Jamie Gough**, **Ed Grabowski**, **John Lievsay**, **Stan Luft**, and **Steve Walske**.

Documents Philatéliques

A need to publicize the work of the *Académie* was recognized early on. But, it was only in April 1959 that a solution was determined. The quarterly revue *Documents Philatéliques* was inaugurated. Each issue, usually 48 pages, publishes philatelic studies of all types written by both members and nonmembers.

Exhibits at Planète Timbre

The members of the *Académie* had a special display of 32 single frame exhibits at the *Planète Timbre* show. These included three from our members: **Robert Abensur**, *Affranchissements insuffisants de l'étranger pour la France — Période pré-UPU*; **Alain Millet**, *Sélection de correspondances coloniales*; and **Peter Kelly**, *Réunion—Aspects de l'histoire postale maritime, 1800-1875*.

Web Site

The web site for the *Académie* is well-developed and provides a wealth of information — most of the information for this article was found on the web site. It is, naturally, presented in French. The address is:

www.academiedephilatelie.org



*The anniversary dinner of the Académie de Philatélie.
President and FCPS member **Robert Abensur** in center.*

A Remarkable Franco-Prussian War Cover

Steven Walske (FCPS 1312)

Sometimes, history and the postal artifacts that we collect can combine in fascinating ways. A simple Google web search on the addressee of the cover illustrated below opened a new perspective on the cover, and illustrated a poignant element of the war.

As shown in Fig. 1, the letter (without contents) was posted at the Paris Vaugirard post office on 30 September 1870. The 20 centimes domestic franking was cancelled by the "4116" lozenge. Since Paris was besieged by the Germans at that time, the manuscript designation *Ballon monté* at the upper right was added by

the sender, indicating that the letter was to be carried by manned balloon over the German siege lines to unoccupied France. A large backlog of mail at the start of the siege meant that this letter had to wait until the 12 October departure of the balloon "*Louis Blanc*" to leave Paris. That balloon landed safely in Belgium and was routed from there to Besançon, as directed by the original address.

The letter was addressed to Monsieur de Bois-sieu, Captain in the 16th Light Infantry Battalion in depot at Besançon (a city in eastern France). Depots were designated assembly



Figure 1. Franco-Prussian War Cover Under Study.

spots for French army units when called up for war. Per the backstamp, the letter arrived in Besançon on 17 October. Unfortunately, the Captain and his unit had long before left Besançon to join the 1st Brigade of the 2nd Division of the 1st Corps of the *Armée du Rhin*. His brigade had participated in the French defeat at Froeschwiller on 6 August, and had been captured in the 1 September French defeat at Sedan.

The resourceful Captain managed to escape from Sedan, and made his way to Bourges, where he joined the 5th Light Infantry Battalion in the 1st Brigade of the 2nd Division of the 15th Corps of the *Armée de la Loire*. This army formed the backbone of the unsuccessful October 11 defense of Orléans. Participating in that action, Captain de Boissieu was killed leading his troops on the Aydes battlefield north of Orléans. The 15th Corps retreated back to Bourges following that defeat.

Returning to the letter, it was forwarded from Besançon to Bourges on 20 October, since the Captain was evidently known to have joined the 15th Corps. At Bourges, the letter received the straight-line military fieldpost marking of the 15th Corps headquarters, "15e CORPS D'ARMÉE QUARTIER GÉNÉRAL", which is a rare postmark normally used on mail originating from the 15th Corps. This is the only known example of its use as a receiving mark.

Perhaps headquarters did not want to notify Captain de Boissieu's family of his death in such an impersonal fashion as a forwarded letter, so the letter was sent on to Pont d'Ain (the de Boissieu family home) on 24 October with the manuscript notation, "prisoner of war without wounds", even though he had died in combat two weeks before.

The moving story of Captain de Boissieu told by this cover illustrates many aspects of the Franco-Prussian War: the early defeats of the *Armée du Rhin*, the balloon mail of the siege of Paris, and the valiant defense mounted by the French volunteer armies in the latter part of the war.

Proposals Wanted

The Editor would like to expand the *FCP* to 28 pages on a regular basis. This should be easily possible, and this is how.

For your specialty or country, propose to write-up a single cover, set of stamps, error or what have you. Send in a scan of the item(s) and just one-half page of text. The text may be submitted in English or French. Authors submitting in French may choose to have their contribution published in its original form, or translated to English.

It would only take four members each issue to contribute this amount of material, and it would be a great way of sharing a lot of specialized knowledge among our members.

To get started, I volunteer to write one article each quarter that illustrates a postage due cover from somewhere in the colonial empire. Will others join me in spreading our knowledge of French-area philately?

Types and Subtypes

o,20 Marianne de Cocteau



Type I: sheets from the first 15 press runs, dated 7 February 1961 to 26 May 1965, first issued 23 February 1961, normal impression.

Type II (scarcer): sheets from three additional press runs dated 1 June to 28 October 1966, issued that summer; a small blue "V" with apex pointed northwest toward Marianne, appears to left of upper part of the "2" of the value as shown in the inset. This is absent in Type I.

— S. J. Luft

Update on the Use of the Two Franc Group Type Stamp

By Ed Grabowski (FCPS 1469)

In a recent article I discussed the general paucity of covers franked with the two franc Group Type stamp.¹ With only a few colonies receiving this value in the 1902–1907 period, I was able to illustrate only one legitimate cover that I had seen in more than thirty-five years of collecting the Group Type issue. This was a declared value letter posted from Porto Novo, Dahomey to Germany in 1907 franked with a single two franc stamp.

A recent visit to the WESTPEX Show in San Francisco has yielded what I believe to be the second non-philatelic cover employing this stamp — again a declared value letter. Shown in Fig. 1, it is, in fact, only a front, but it does represent a valid use of this Group Type value. The letter was from a commercial firm in Fort-de-France, Martinique posted on 10 September 1908 to Bordeaux. It bears a manuscript endorsement for a declared value of three thousand francs. It also bears an encased **R** for registration which was misapplied and overstruck with the **CHARGÉ** handstamp as was required for mail of this category.

It is franked with 5c, 50c and 2F Group Type stamps for an overall rate of 2F55c. Since this is only a front, the declared value cachet that was present on the reverse of the letter is not available to enable the determination of the weight of the letter, and the actual breakdown of the rate. In 1908 registration was 25c, and the 10c rate per fifteen grams applied within the French Community. Given the large value of this letter, it undoubtedly reached the second and probably

the third weight level. My best guess at the rate breakdown would be 30c for postage for a triple-weight letter weighing between thirty and forty-five grams, 25c registration and 2F insurance on the declared value of three thousand francs. The front is illustrated in the Figure.

My earlier article¹ did not generate any correspondence regarding other letters franked with this Group Type value. Possibly this note will bring additional material to light. Of note, fellow FCPS member **Alain Millet** was also at the WESTPEX Show, and he stated that he is unaware of any other non-philatelic covers franked with this value.

Reference

1. Grabowski, E., "Gleanings from the French Colonies: Use of the Two Franc Colonial Allegorical Group Type Stamp," *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, **84**(3), May-June 2005, pp. 167-170.

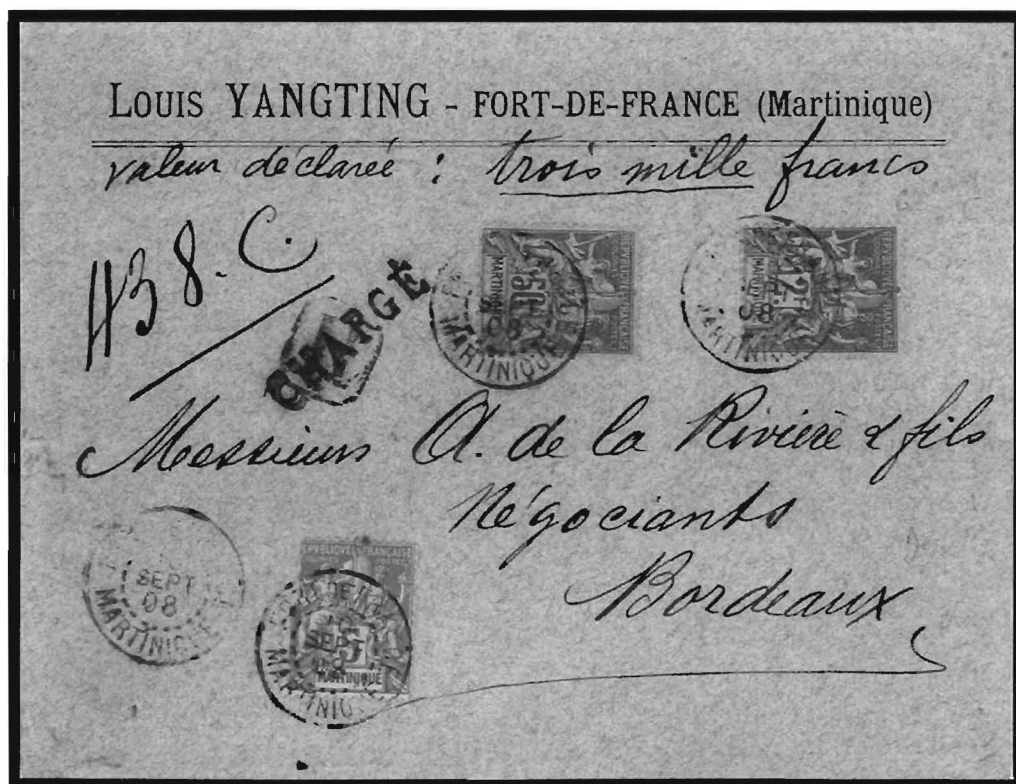


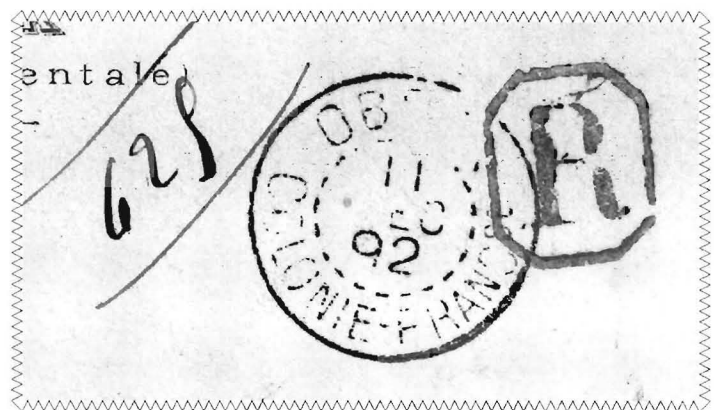
Figure 1. Second use of 2f Group Type noted.

Earliest Recorded Group Type Usage?

The literature on the Group Type indicates that the stamps were first printed in 1892 and shipped to the colonies in November-December of that year for use. The existence of the 2 millésime confirms the 1892 initial printing for the issue, but an important remaining question is: what is the earliest recorded use of the Group Type issue and from which colony or colonies?

After a generation of collecting the Group Type and amassing a collection of about twenty four hundred covers, my earliest recorded cover was from Cayenne, French Guiana posted on 4 January 1893. Given the probable transit time for the stamps from Paris, this seemed a likely candidate for the earliest recorded use.

Recently I purchased the attached commercial cover franked with the 50c and 75c Group Types of Obock prepaying the registered fourth weight level rate (25c registry and 1F postage). The complete cover is shown in the adjacent figure along with cropped blowups of the cancellations. The letter was posted from Obock on 11 December 1892 and was received on the Reunion-Marseille packet the same day. There is no backstamp, but the packet datestamp confirms its transit through the mails. This is the earliest recorded usage of the Group Type issue that I have seen to date. Do any other



collectors have an earlier dated Group Type cover or stamp? Please let me know by email at: edjjg@alum.mit.edu.

Edward Grabowski



Dave Herendeen Wins FCPS Grand Prix

Dave Herendeen, FCP Editor, had an excellent weekend in McLean, VA at the NAPEX WSP exhibition. His exhibit, *The Evolution of Postage Due Stamps in the French Community*, won both our FCPS Grand Prix for 2008, and the Grand Award for the show. This qualifies his exhibit for the Champion of Champions competition that will be held at Stampshow in Hartford, CT in August.

Ten Frames

Dave has been showing a streamline 5-frame version of this exhibit since about 2004 when he was focused on Washington 2006. The smaller exhibit focused only on the Duval type postage dues. This exhibit has returned to the complete coverage showing the six different stages in the evolution of postage dues in the French community. These are:

I. Local Typeset Issues (1876-1899) which were crude issues printed in only three colonies.

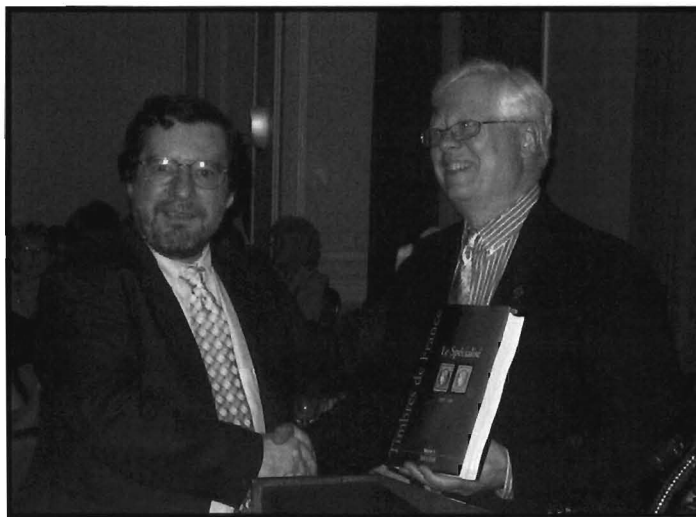
II. Colonial General Issues (1884-1906) which were printed in France for general distribution to, and use in, all of the colonies.

III. Usage Transformations (1889-1903) which were created locally due to shortages of stamps for a particular use. The transformations shown include: postage due stamps overprinted for use as regular postage stamps, and for use as parcel post stamps; and regular postage stamps overprinted (or perforated) for use as postage dues.

IV. Overprints on the Colonial General Issues (1891-1905) were created for two reasons. The first, authorized by the Ministerial Letter of 1891, was to overprint all stamps with the colony name to prevent currency speculation that

was occurring, and the second was due to shortages of certain values that occurred while waiting for new stamps to arrive from Paris.

V. Overprinted French Dues for Use Abroad (1893-1930s) were primarily used in the foreign post offices because they were under the control of the Ministry of Posts, rather than the Ministry of Colonies. The same method was used for colonies destined to become French overseas *départements* or *territoires* (DOM/TOM). Overprinting was done in Paris. This technique was also often employed in areas of military occupation which were under control of the military commandant, however overprinting was most often done locally.



Dave Herendeen receiving FCPS Grand Prix from president Ken Nilsestuen.

VI. Pictorial and Numerical Issues (1904-1930s) which spread throughout the French community after the turn of the century.

Dave's exhibit featured a wide variety of rare items including: 10 items which are the only reported examples; 60 more items which had a printing of 10 or fewer; and 80 additional items which had a printing of 50 or fewer.

The material in this exhibit, and the extensive backup collection, have taken Dave more than 30 years to gather, study and organize. Searching out the stamps and covers is great challenge and very little of the material in the exhibit can be found at a stamp exhibition bourse. He notes that because postage due stamps were originally denigrated by collectors, it has only been in recent years that serious, comprehensive study has been initiated for all but a modest number of colonies. As a result, even the small printing figures for important items are misleading — many rare items simply disappeared due to the benign neglect of the collecting fraternity.

FCPS Exhibits and Exhibitors

The FCPS Annual General Meeting for 2008 resulted in another good turnout of members, including many who were not in attendance at last year's meeting in Cleveland. Sixteen members signed in at our table, and we had 18 people in attendance for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, 7 June. We are pleased to report that three of our exhibits received Gold Medals from the jury. As noted on page 68, **Dave Herendeen** received the FCPS Grand Prix award. Highlights of the exhibits are presented below.

Gold Medal
Dr. Ed Grabowski

Postal History of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Use in the French Pacific Ocean Colonies

Ed Grabowski launched another new exhibit at NAPRX. He examines the use of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type in the two French Pacific colonies: New Caledonia and Dependencies and French Oceania.

Ed notes that to his knowledge, this exhibit represents the first attempt at a comprehensive examination of the use of this issue in the French Pacific colonies. Each of the colonies is introduced by a detailed examination of mail from the capital cities: Nouméa, New Caledonia and Papeete, French Oceania. An examination of the military concession rate of 15c in each of

the colonies follows. Thereafter, mail from the smaller villages of each colony is examined, followed by mail from the limited ship services that were available to these two remote colonies. The New Caledonia section ends with examples of mail from its dependencies: New Hebrides, the Loyalty Islands and the Protectorate of Wallis, all of which are extremely rare. Ed notes that most usages follow the well-established UPU rates.

He shows examples of: the 5c Overseas printed matter and short message post card (less than twelve words) rates; the 10c Post card rate (more than twelve words) and the French Community rate beginning in late 1906; the 15c reduced military rate until 1899; the 15c rates for local mail until 1906 and French Community mail from 1899 to 1906; and the 25c rate in the French Community until 1899 and the overseas rate throughout the period.

Because of the small populations of both colonies, the availability of Group Type postal history material from the French Pacific is quite limited compared to the major French Colonies such as Madagascar, Indochina or Guadeloupe.

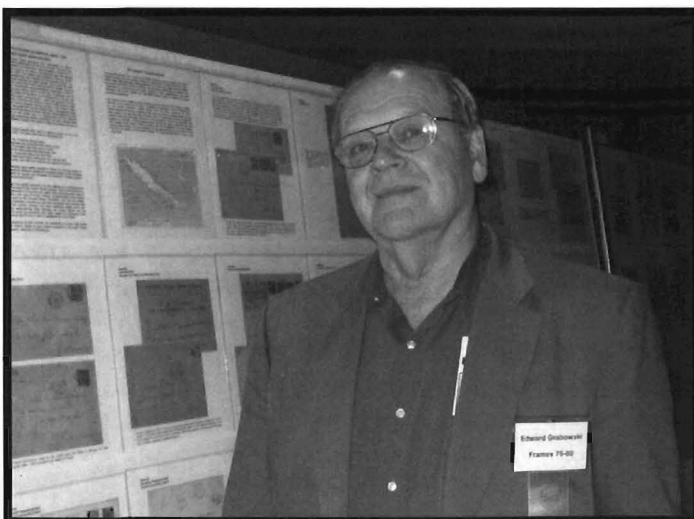
Ed's exhibit also received the APS Research Award, and the Postal History Society Posthorn Medal.

Gold Medal
Eliot Landau

Classic France: Postal History of the Ceres and Napoleon Issues of 1849-75

Eliot Landau's postal history exhibit, winner of numerous Gold medals, has been developed to show the breadth of usage of the French Ceres and Napoleon Head issues of 1849 through 1875 excluding those issued for use only in the colonies. The domestic rates for letter mail, circulars and periodicals and registration and postage due are included.

The presentation is divided into four main parts and these are further divided into short chapters. The main parts are domestic mails,



Dr. Ed Grabowski

the Franco-Prussian War, uses abroad, and foreign mails. The domestic mails are further divided into rates and frankings, registered mail, postage due and unusual uses. The Franco-Prussian War era includes the Siege of Paris, Balloon Mail, *Boules des Moulins*, the Commune, and the occupation of Alsace-Lorraine. Uses abroad start with Military Mail, then Bureaus, Consulates, and Agencies. The foreign mails section is divided into destinations and rates, which are followed by mixed frankings.

Eliot's exhibit also received the APS pre-1940 Award of Excellence.

Gold Medal
Dave Herendeen

***The Evolution of Postage Due Stamps
in the French Community***

Dave Herendeen's Grand Prix winning exhibit is highlighted on page 65.

Vermeil Medal
Ralph Deboard

***French Polynesia, the Regular Issue of
1958: Design, Production and Usages***

Ralph Deboard shows a comprehensive exhibit of the first issue of French Polynesia. It is especially strong in archival material and it features two artist's proofs which are, most likely, the first philatelic items to bear the words *Polynesie Française*; extremely scarce Artist Proofs of many of the stamps; including some unique hand colored examples.



Ralph Deboard

In addition to the only *Printers Proofs* of the 9 F issue in private hands, he shows many scarce usages including a mixed country postage due, a mixed country paquebot cover, and an intra-island wrapper. This is only Ralph's second outing with his modern exhibit and we look forward to its development over the coming years.

Silver Medal
John Lievsay

***French Railroad Mails 1845-1876:
Bureaux Ambulants***

Not Available

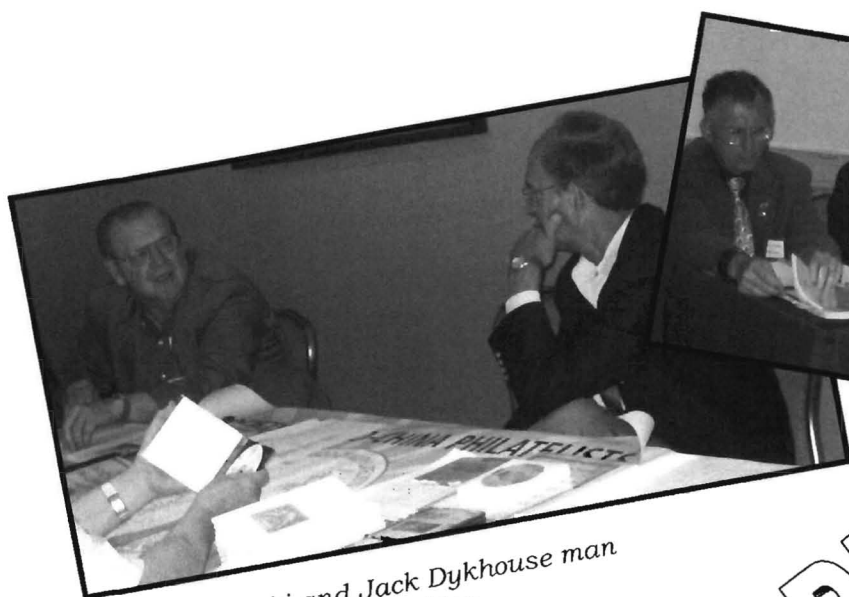
Silver Medal
Paul F. ("Fred") Edinger

Inini — A Postal Retrospective

Fred Edinger is a professor of Geology at Coker College in South Carolina. He has spent decades forming his two-frame exhibit of this difficult material. As he notes, Inini Territory was an administrative unit carved out of French Guiana. The French government decided that more direct control was needed over the gold mining activities in the interior. Rather than acceding to local control of this increasingly lucrative enterprise, the authorities in Paris reasserted their authority (and access to the "purse-strings") by establishing the Territory. (see Jeff Ward's article in the FCP No. 291, Jan 2008, pp. 6-8.) Inini remained a separate entity until by 1951 it was simply absorbed as another *arrondissement* within French Guiana.

Fred's exhibit included a study of post offices, mail categories and the special stamps issued for Inini. It included postal history from the establishment in the 1930s through World War II until the reunification with French Guiana. Paul notes that all Inini covers are very scarce, even those which are clearly philatelic; as a result, single postage stamps with circular date stamp cancels from one of the four Inini post offices are quite collectable.

Congratulations to Fred for receiving a national Silver medal in his first time out! We hope to see more of his study soon.



Ed Grabowski and Jack Dykhouse man the society tables.



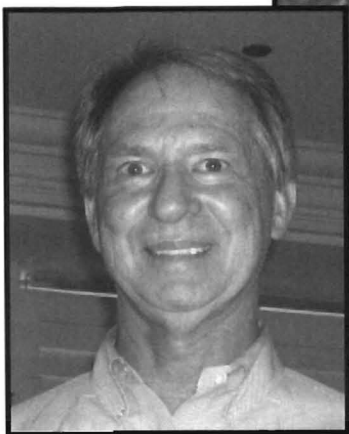
The philatelic jury during the critique.



President Nilsestuen and his wife, Pat, at the banquet.



Members at Annual Meeting. Newly elected Vice President Norval Rasmussen, right foreground.



Director Jeff Bohn

Scenes from NAPLEX

An Indochina Design Clarification

by Ron Bentley (FCPS 1346)

It is often interesting to find an original source for any of the French colonial stamps. Most often, the designers and engravers of postage stamps never left the comfort of France. As a result, they used material originating in the colonies; primarily photographs.

The first pictorial stamps for the colony of *Indochine* were issued in July 1907 (Y&T 41-58, Sc. 41-58). They were designed by A. Puyplat and engraved by G. Johannet. Puyplat was responsible for the design or engraving of many stamps across the colonies, including French Guinea, Guadeloupe, and Somali Coast, just to name a few. The series included 18 values ranging from 1c to 10f. A total of seven designs were used. The values from 1c to 50c were in the usual small definitive format and featured two designs: an "Annamite Girl" and a "Cambodian Girl." The five stamps with values higher than 50c were in the large vertical commemorative format as seen in

Fig. 1.

According to the 1936 Y&T Catalogue, these featured a Cambodian woman (75c), an Annamite woman (1f), a Muong woman (2f), a Laotian woman (5f), and a Cambodian woman (10f). This is still the way the designs are given in the Scott Catalog.

In the current Y&T catalogue, the design of the 10f stamp is now called "Tonkinoise" rather than "Cambodgienne." When and why did this change occur? The Society of Indo-China Philatelists [Ron is the editor of their fine journal, the *Indo-China Philatelist*. — Ed.] is trying to determine the ethnicity of the girl in the photograph shown in Fig. 2.

Note the artistic license taken by the designer. He has removed the seated girl, and in the process he also removed the long handle supporting the parasol. This makes the parasol appear to be a large hat in the final stamp design.

If any FCPS members can identify the ethnicity of these girls from the artifacts shown in Fig. 2, please email the information to the author at ron.bentley@verizon.net.



Figure 2. Photograph Apparently used for Model.



Figure 1. The 10f stamp of 1907.

The Philatelic Outing in Paris

David L. Herendeen (FCPS 2532)

Beginning on 17 June, five members of the FCPS (see the mug shot below) converged on Paris to partake of a full schedule of philatelic events. June was chosen to allow members to attend the French National exhibition and show. Called *Planète Timbre*, this large show was sponsored by *La Poste*. Held from 14-22 June 2008, the venue was the event center at the *Parc Floral de Paris* which is located in the *Bois de Vincennes*.



Although a beautiful, eco-friendly environment, this venue, in the far southeast of Paris, took (depending where one was staying, of course) 30-60 minutes to reach by *Métro* and longer by car. While some of us love taking the *Métro*, numerous locals told us that they felt that the location was inconvenient. This did not stop people from turning out in large numbers for the festivities, as seen in the photo of Steve Tucker lining up to get into the show promptly at 10 AM.

La Poste sponsorship resulted in the



Steve Tucker waiting to enter show.

show's primary focus on selling new issues from the post office and entertaining the more than 100,000 children (I am told) who attended.

There was indeed an exhibition of several hundred exhibits both in the French National class, and the International class, many of which were interesting. In addition, there was a special display of one-frame exhibits that were prepared by members of the *Académie de Philatélie* (see page 59 for more details). These covered a range of topics not only for France and colonies, but other areas as well.



Group travelers, from left, Jim Camak, Dave Herendeen, Bayard Mentrum (looking very French and dapper in his beret), Jack Dykhouse, and Steve Tucker.



The outdoor bourse still opens at the corner of Avenues de Marigny and Gabriel on Thursdays and weekends.



Pascal Behr speaking with Jim Camak and Bayard Mentrum over café et pâtisserie.



The group visits with Alexandre Roumet (center) and Christian at the Rue Drouot shop.



Jack Dykhouse pouring over material at Caphila with owner Jean-Phillippe Kalkstein.

Up and Down Rue Drouot

We began our visit to Rue Drouot on Friday afternoon when we visited **Caphila**. Owner Jean-Phillipe Kalkstein opened his wonderful stock of archival material and other unusual items for us. He undoubtedly has the most comprehensive stock of essays and proofs that can be found in Paris.

On Tuesday, we were back off to Rue Drouot. We started by meeting with **Pascal Behr** and his charming wife Béatrice at their 18 Rue Drouot shop. We had a wonderful meeting with Pascal telling many stories about his 28 years in the stamp business. He noted how vibrant the stamp market is in Paris and noted that nearly all of the deals on Rue Drouot were in their 40s and 50s. He also mentioned that his father, Bernard, now 84, still arrived at the office early each morning. Such is our love of philately. Béatrice kindly presented us all with gifts and we walked with Pascal to the **Passage Panorama**.

This *passage*, perhaps best called a gallery in English, is about a quarter-mile from Rue Drouot. It features, among other shops and bistros, at least 12 stamp dealers. Many of these deal in new issues and postcards. We perused the latter looking both for colonial scenes and stamp usages.

After a lunch break, we returned to meet with **Alexandre Roumet** and his assistant Christian at the Roumet shop. Here we looked at lots from the active mail auction sale of French colonies material, made some bids, and bought some books. For those on the Roumet mailing list, we told him how the catalogs for the previous auction did not arrive in the U.S. until after the sale. Alexandre noted that he knew about this, but they did not know how it happened.

Dinner

On Saturday night, the group had dinner at **Punjab** near the *Ecole Militaire* not far from the Eiffel Tower. This Indian restaurant is wonderful. The author has been eating there for nearly a decade during which there seems to have been no change in staff or cooks. The five of us were joined by **Jack Dykhouse's** lovely daugh-

ter Jillian who was visiting from New York, and everyone enjoyed the food.

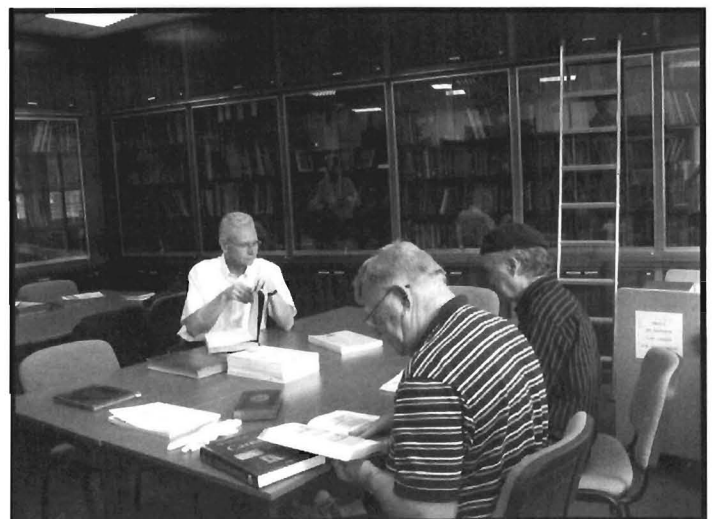
In addition to getting to know one another a little better, we spent time planning our other visits for the following week. Naturally, the author forgot to take a photo of this major event!

La Musée de la Poste

After a weekend where members were "on their own," we gathered for our second meeting Monday afternoon at the *Musée de la Poste*. We were greeted by Mme. Fabre, the librarian and information officer, and Mme. Célimon, the curator of the philatelic collections. In a huge breakthrough for English-speaking philatelists, Mme. Célimon, who only joined the museum in January, speaks our language!!

The two wonderful ladies had prepared the main reading room for our visit (see photo below). They had set out more than a dozen different documents for us to see. These included volumes describing early French postal laws and rates, initial volumes of major French periodicals, and early catalogs.

We then visited the archives to look at the 1892 group type issue of Indochine. Here we saw a sampling of the holdings at the museum. Sheets of 100 of each value, imperforate with notations from the *Atelier des Timbre-Poste* adorning each sheet. A treasure trove for students looking for plate varieties or shade changes. Steve Tucker and I returned several days later and were able to find some of the



Engrossed by materials at La Musée de la Poste.

newly listed varieties of French Guinea. There will be a major article on this wonderful research facility in the October *FCP*.

We then concluded our visit by viewing the permanent collection in the museum. With more than a dozen galleries on four floors, this facility traces the history of the French postal system from its earliest beginnings until today.

We all agreed that the complete experience of the museum, the research library and the archives were one of the high points of the trip.

Conclusion

The author feels that we all left Paris happy and perhaps even temporarily sated with philately. More importantly, we all found a few new *treasures* to add to our collections.

The group agreed that the trip was worthwhile, and felt that such a trip would be very helpful for new French-area philatelists who would like to do business in France — a requirement to build a great collection.

As the organizer, the author was pleased by the results of the trip. All of us had an enjoyable time and learned quite a few things. Perhaps, if there is interest from the members, another such trip may be organized in the future.

Membership Notices

NEW MEMBERS

- 3385 LEVIN, MARK, Pittsburgh, PA
- 3386 OLIVIER, MARK G., Warwick, RI
- 3387 BAIRD, JULIAN T., Ph.D., Orleans, MA
- 3388 WALLS, GARY B., Chicago, IL
- 3389 ZENDER, KARL F., Davis, CA
- 3390 SHERMAN, LAWRENCE, MD, San Diego, CA
- 3391 LAMPEN, PETER C., New Brunswick, NJ
- 3392 FORD, HAROLD D., Stone Mountain, GA
- 3393 ACQUISTAPACE, ROGER L., Santa Rosa, CA

REINSTATEMENTS

- 3280 JARVIS, CHARLES, Grand Haven, MI
- 1447 WOODS, CARL P., San Antonio, TX

ADDRESS CHANGES

- 3168 MALMGREN, RALPH T., Grand Haven, MI
- 3388 National Archives of Canada, Ottawa, ON

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

- 770 Nadata, Henry

DECEASED

- 1066 Guzzio, George T.

2008 MEMBERSHIP DUES

There seems to have been some problem with our dues collection procedures for 2008. The editor is in the process of contacting all members whose dues payment may have been overlooked or confused in some manner.

TYPES AND SUBTYPES (Redux)

[The editor inverted the figures in the last installment of this column. Rather than printing a partial correction, I have chosen to rerun the entire column.]

o,25 Marianne de Decaris

Type I: (for sheets, coils and booklets of 20 stamps): gray lines in jaw are approximately equal in thickness (Figure 1a).

Type II: (for booklets of 8 stamps): complete gray line at top of jaw is thicker than the rest (Figure 1b). Not always clearly evident, and it's best to look also for one or more machine-cut booklet perforations.

S. J. Luft



Type I

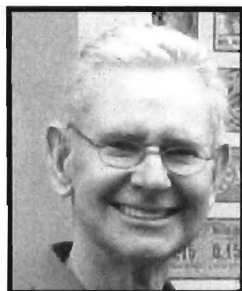


Type II

Paris Reflections

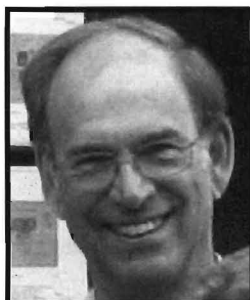
[I asked each of my fellow travelers to share their reactions to our trip to Paris. With the exception of Bayard Mentrum, who at this writing is still in the south of France (Dommage !), their reflections are given below.]

Jim Camak (TX). My recent trip to Paris was a philatelic dream! I found material for my collection everywhere I went: the national show, the Sunday bourse, and the dealers on *Rue Drouot*. A visit to the *Musée de la Poste* was certainly one of the unforgettable highlights of the whole trip. We saw beautiful, pristine examples of the earliest postal material of France and colonies — very impressive stuff!



There is so much more material in Paris than in the U.S., every collector of French material can benefit from such an excursion. I wish I had had this exposure to "Philatelic Paris" years ago. ***I highly recommend a trip like this to every member of the FCPS who can go. I'm going back!***

Jack Dykhouse (TX). Three of the philatelic activities of our trip were visits to the *Planète Timbre* stamp show, the stamp dealers on the famous *Rue Drouot* and the postal museum and library. Although some really serious collectors thought the Paris fall show was better, I enjoyed this show and was able to obtain many fine Indo-China covers for my collection. For French material, I think the show was better than any show I've attended in the USA this decade except for Washington 2006.



For our trips to visit the plethora of stamp stores on *Rue Drouot*, special meetings were held with Mr. and Mrs. Pascal Behr, Mr. Kalkstein (Caphilla) and Mr. Roumet. They were all very gracious and it was fascinating to listen to their stories and opinions on philately. Many of

the other smaller dealers on *Rue Drouot*, like many dealers at the stamp show, did not accept credit cards, and many of the stores close from noon to 2pm.

The visit to the library at the postal museum was very educational. Besides books and periodicals, the library includes the archive for every stamp from France and also all the stamps from French Colonies that were printed in France. The very helpful staff showed us a drawer of unique proofs for *Indochine* stamps. ***Seeing this tremendous material was worth the price of the entire trip by itself.*** They also have the actual dies used to produce the stamps.

Steve Tucker (NV). This was my first trip to Paris in 48 years! I was really impressed by the vibrancy of the philatelic scene — there is certainly nothing like it in the US.

This was the first international show I had been to since Pacific 97, and I greatly enjoyed viewing the many exhibits. The other philatelic events were wonderful. ***Getting to meet major French philatelic figures who were only names in catalogs: Behr, Roumet, Brun. Wow!*** As a collector of French Guinea, I was pleased to find some important pieces for my exhibit, both stamps and covers. I also was able to see the items for the early issues of Guinea that were housed in the archive at the postal museum.



I had a wonderful time, and I feel the trip has greatly enriched my knowledge of and appreciation for French-area philately.

Bayard Mentrum (OR). This was Bayard's first trip to Paris and, as you can see from his picture, he immediately fell into the spirit of this incredible city. Perhaps he can recount his experience in a later *FCP*.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It's been just a couple of weeks since NAPEX, site of our 2008 meeting. What a great turnout! Considering the other meetings and activities at the show, I'm very happy that so many of you found time to join us.

We announced the election results, which unsurprisingly showed all candidates elected to their respective offices.

Our longest discussion was about a 21st century idea to change how we distribute our journal. Both our society and, to a larger extent the APS, have seen membership renewals drop off as dues have increased. A significant reason for higher dues is the cost of producing our journal. The printing and postage costs are by far the largest expenses in our budget.

One of our sister societies, the *Society of Indo-China Philatelists*, has held their dues to \$5 by producing their journal electronically and emailing it to the members. The *FCP* is limited in size only by the number of contributions (perhaps by the editor's schedule), and it is all in color. Those who want a paper copy pay an additional subscription rate and receive only a stapled black and white version from the editor. Of course, electronic delivery solves the problem of international mailing costs as well.

Our board will consider a similar alternative for our society. It seems to at least some of us that this would be a significant benefit to our members. As **Dave Herendeen** pointed out, our journal is already nearly all in color until it comes off the press. The opportunity to reduce dues and provide a color journal seems like a win for all but those few who do not have e-mail. For members not yet adapted to the electronic age, they can still receive a paper journal. Let the board know if you have an opinion either way.

As always I encourage any member who wishes to be more actively involved to step forward. Writing for the journal and spending time at the registration table during a stamp show are probably the most taxing roles, although there are one or two other projects that would benefit from more volunteer help. Of course, I en-

courage you to exhibit, since the beauty of French area stamps is unsurpassed, and our exhibits attract new members. Following our successes in Cleveland and McLean we'll be convening next year in Denver and in Chicago in 2010. Make your plans now to join us in either or both locations.

La Vie de FCPS

David L. Herendeen, Editor

La Belle Langue

I heard from a number of members who generally were in favor of a modest amount of French text in the *FCP*. (See **We Get Letters**, page 54.)

Our Annual Meeting and Exhibition

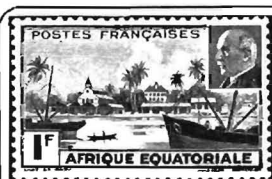
The annual meeting was held at NAPEX in McLean, VA from 6-8 June 2008. We had a good turn-out of members and exhibits. Not only were five of members showing, but there were two additional exhibits of French-related material. See pages 66-68 for coverage.

Election

The election was successfully completed. The incumbents were all re-elected, and a new Vice President, **Dr. Norval Rassmussen**, was installed. A total of 66 votes were cast. This represents more than 15% of the membership, which is about average for groups such as ours.

Extra Pages

I was fortunate to have enough material to add four pages to the normal *FCP* length this issue. This space was primarily used to cover the news from the annual meeting and the trip to Paris that was made in June by five *FCPS* members. I think you will see from the article (page 70) that many philatelic contacts were made and much was learned. I know that all of the participants enjoyed the trip, and I would like to hear from other members who might like to partake of a similar opportunity in the future. Just drop me a quick email.



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