



FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

July 2010
Whole No. 301 (Vol. 66, No. 3)



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Unusual Originations and Destinations



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Ballot Enclosed
Please Vote!

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FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

USPS #207700

ISSN 0897-1293

Published quarterly by the
FRANCE AND COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC.
Affiliate No. 45, American Philatelic Society

The France & Colonies Philatelist (*FCP*) is the official journal of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc. Permission to reprint material appearing herein is granted provided that proper credit is given to the *FCP* and the Editor is notified.

Dues for U.S. addresses \$20.00 per year (\$22.00 using PayPal)
Dues for others: \$25.00 per year (\$27.00 using PayPal)
Dues include a subscription to the *FCP*

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Periodical Postage paid at Publications office,
P.O. Box 102, Brooklyn, NY 11209-0102
An additional entry office at Platteville, WI 53818
Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to Publications Office noted above

— CHICAGO —
NOW IS THE TIME

The French Intervention in Chad (1983-1984)

Stanley J. Luft (FCPS 915)

Landlocked Chad (or Tchad) (Fig. 1), formerly a part of French Equatorial Africa, became independent from France on 11 August 1960 and almost immediately fell victim to civil wars and assorted armed skirmishes between the Moslem north and the animistic (with Christian pockets) south.

However, this is not about independent Chad and its colorful wallpaper stamps, nor about the several French military interventions that supported its largely corrupt or inept governments ever since 1978. We shall concentrate in this article with just a typical one, that of 1983-84.

Two earlier invasions from adjoining Libya on the north, in 1978 and again in 1980, resulted in stalemates but kept the frontier areas in uneasy turmoil. France, backed by American money, maintained an uneasy truce with varying numbers of troops.

Libyan dictator Moammar Khaddafi (of the various anglicized spellings) launched a major invasion in the summer of 1983, and gained control over much of the country with the aid of Chadian Moslem rebels loyal to the previous president of Chad. The government of François Mitterrand almost immediately sent in reinforcements, as of 13 August, that soon grew to some 1200 men from the 11th Parachute Division and some 1500 men from the 9th Marine Infantry Division. These forces were supported by Jaguar fighter planes and other units. About half of the paratroopers were sent to train, bolster and provision president Hissène Habré's wobbly government army. Zaire also supplied about 2700 men to the Inter-African Force for peace-keeping operations.

From 22 August, the French under the overall command of Brig. Gen. Jean Poli, established a line stretching between Abéché on the west to and beyond Salal on the east (separating



Figure 1. Map of Chad (from www.worldatlas.com)

about the southern half of the country) as a front line that the invading forces would not be allowed to cross at the risk of direct combat with the French. French and Chadian outposts north of this line, at Oum Chalouba and elsewhere, held against sporadic Libyan land and air attacks. The Jaguar aircraft were especially effective in scattering the rebels at Oum Chalouba. Heavily armed, Libyan-commanded attacks were again repulsed on 6 September, with apparently heavy losses by the attackers.

For the most part, the French were not directly involved in the ground fighting, keeping the rebels and Libyans well to the north of the dividing line. However, a French plane was shot down 25 January 1984, by a surface-to-air missile fired by a Libyan tank column. Other Jaguars continued to hold reconnaissance flights over Libyan-held territory well past 18 November

With hostilities winding down and with little territorial changes, Khaddafi offered to have both Libyan and French forces withdraw from Chad. By November 10, the French had done so, but not the Libyans, who only withdrew partially. Khaddafi thus maintained a presence in Chad, in hope for another opportunity. Instead he was totally defeated and humiliated in February-March 1986 by Habré's French-equipped Chadians and a new French expeditionary force that stayed mainly on the sidelines.

From that time on and into the 21st Century, Chad underwent mostly civil unrest and coups, but in 2005, there was friction with Sudan over control of the unfortunate Darfur region. But these could be the basis of some future articles. Perhaps!

Military Postal History

Bertrand Sinais (1987)² briefly covers three interventions in Chad (1969, 1983, 1986) and

their markings. In all three, Bureau Postal 617 remained in use, at the capital, N'Djamena, whenever the French had to intervene. Typical hand stamped and machine cancels from this, the main French military P.O., are shown in Sinais, page 373. As the machine cancel has been in general use here and elsewhere, covers should bear the 85.300 series of individual units, to be recognized as pertaining solely to this campaign.

In April 1984, my late friend, the eminent Colonial historian Jacques Desrousseaux³ provided me with what may be the best information available on this little-documented conflict—and which is the principal reason why I did not choose to cover other French interventions in Chad. One of his sons served in Chad during 1983-1984, as the quartermaster (*intendant militaire*) at French headquarters in the Chad capital of N'Djaména (formerly Ft. Lamy). Mr. Desrousseaux had a limited correspondence with him, from which he sent me



Figure 2. POSTE AUX ARMÉES, 9 Sep 1983 mute Secap machine cancel with 5 wavy lines at left (same as in Sinais (1987, p. 273) to France; endorsed on back 85.301 of French HQ at N'Djaména. 2,00 postage was the then current domestic French postal rate to 20 gm; no charge for airmail to the troops.



Figure 3. From Paris, 6 Nov 1983, arrived unknown at S.P. 85.623 (per mail clerk); attempted delivery by 33 in circle, etc.; returned via "mute" POSTE AUX ARMÉES, 23 Dec 1983. (back of cover only)

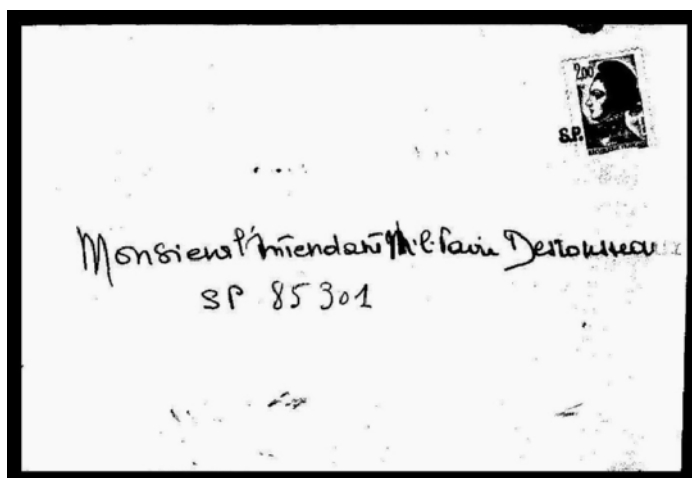


Figure 4. From Paris Nov. 1983 to S.P. 85.301; uncanceled at Paris and cancelled by S.P. 85.300 at N'Djaména, the main military-postal bureau. (Front only)

more-or-less legible photocopies. The postal markings thereon (Figs. 2-5), plus those from Sinais (Fig. 6), are the basis for the very limited knowledge available we have for postal markings and military-postal sectors (*secteurs postals*) for this intervention. A summary is shown in the following table.

S.P. 85.300	main military post office at N'Djaména, using BPM 617 (<i>Bureau Postal Militaire</i>)
S.P. 85.301	staff headquarters at N'Djaména
S.P. 85.302	Unknown
S.P. 85.323	troops stationed at Abéché?
S.P. 85.331	Unknown
S.P. 85.335	discontinued sector, formerly at ?

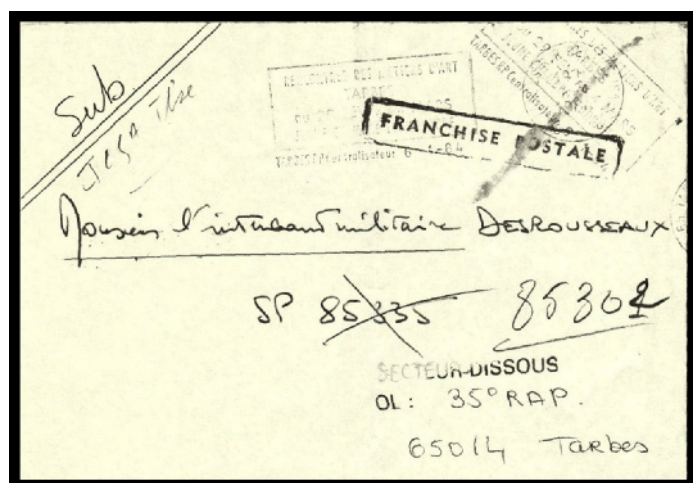


Figure 5. Free-franked (boxed *FRANCHISE POSTALE*), 6 Jan 1984, from artillery unit at Tarbes, to S.P. 85.335; marked as discontinued sector and redirected to S.P. 85.302

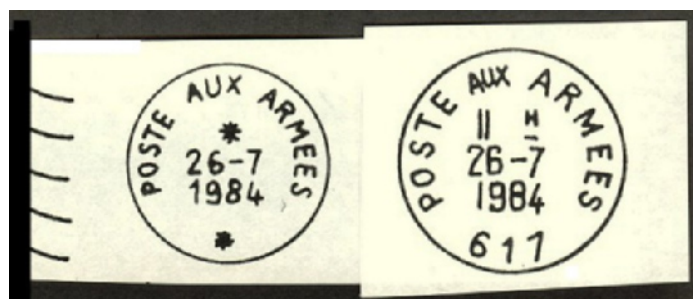


Figure 6. Other date stamps from Ref. 2, p. 273.

Obviously, this is a starting point, and much more information on sectors remains to be discovered.

References

1. Main sources for historical background are Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libya_Chad_War, and *The Denver Post*, 14 August-7 September 1983 and 26 January 1984.
2. Sinais, Bertrand, *Catalogue des Oblitérations Militaires Françaises 1900-1985*; Editions Fostier; Saint Julien-du-Sault; 1985, pp. 272-273.
3. Desrousseaux, Jacques, personal communications, January and April 1984.

Not Once, but Twice!

Your editor is obviously having a dyslexic moment with member **Colin Spong**'s name. Twice now I have spelled his name incorrectly as Sprong. This is especially embarrassing since I have had the privilege of meeting Colin in London a few years back. I humbly apologize and vow that it shall not happen again.

Recruits, Enthusiasts and Specialists

Michael Meadowcroft (FCPS 2930)

*[In the last issue, member **Carl Barna** asked about wrote to the Editor noting that it was difficult to start collecting French area stamps. He suggested that more articles aimed at novices would be useful. I'm pleased to publish this contribution from member **Michael Meadowcroft** of England. He makes many points of which those of us who attend many shows are acutely aware. Mr. Meadowcroft makes many good points that we should all try to remember. For simplicity, I have left the English spellings in this article. Also see the **Member to Member** column for some incredible opportunities to jumpstart a railway cancelation collection.]*

Carl Barna's letter (FCP 300) rang a lot of bells. Philately is in danger and some of the reasons are in our hands to rectify. Last weekend I went to the annual Spring philatelic salon in Paris. The many collectors swarming around the booths were almost entirely clones of myself - 60 plus, white males! To their credit the organizers had made strenuous efforts to attract young people, with innovative interactive displays on the periphery of the hall on the regions of France, on alphabets around the world and on printing processes, all leading to stamps on the topics.

From the number of youngsters around, the efforts were clearly succeeding, but it is more difficult to see how older new collectors are catered for. Take one practical problem at a big philatelic fair: how does one approach a dealer? Even after more than thirty years of collecting French material I still find it difficult from time to time to engage with a dealer I don't know. I have a good idea of some of the items I'm looking for; I have a fair assessment of what I expect to pay, but I am concerned that the dealer's stock might be of too high a quality and, therefore, embarrassingly expensive. And I would like to be able to look through his — rarely her — stock for other items that attract me and would benefit my collection.

Some dealers are sympathetic but the atmos-

phere is often off putting to the new collector. I recollect one early rebuff I suffered. I was in Paris and went to the philatelists' heaven: *Rue Drouot*. I was unaware of how elitist it can be. I went into one shop and asked for some Sower types I wanted. The dealer looked at me rather witheringly and replied, "I am sorry, sir, but I have no stock later than 1876"! I didn't feel like trying another shop, though I have since discovered which dealers there — and now also in the *Passage des Panoramas* — are more approachable. I now endeavor to pass this information on to other equally tender spirits and, where possible, gently to chide unhelpful dealers.

Elitist attitudes are not confined to the professional circuit. Our club and society meetings are not always sympathetic to new participants. We regulars think that we are welcoming but the style of our meetings is not necessarily seen as such by new attendees. Some aspects of a meeting are perfectly natural. We are amongst friends and we tend to chat mainly with our regular colleagues. In the main we regard ourselves as experts and are keen to display our expertise, even though it can on occasion be somewhat abstruse and even overwhelming. We, rightly, want to help others to avoid errors on their album pages but there are gentle ways of pointing these out to those still in the early throes of learning than are sometimes employed. Similarly, because we adore sophisticated displays, it can sometimes seem as if one has to be exceptionally rich to be a successful philatelist, even though this is far from being true.

When I first started going to my local FCPS [our British sister organization, Ed.] meetings, I would take along any items that were puzzling me and, in effect, hold up the meeting to ask experienced colleagues for advice. They seemed happy to help and I welcomed the information. Perhaps we ought to have a similar short introductory session at all our meetings and encourage new collectors to seek help. Another useful regular session I encountered was at a

philatelic club in Beziers in the south of France. There was to be an informal session for an hour or so before the actual meeting at which those who had inexpensive pieces to sell or exchange, or even just to identify, came along and displayed the items very simply. It was clearly popular, including amongst young collectors, and observing them, it seemed to draw in a number of new and newish collectors of a type that we seem all too often to miss or who only come once.

Carl Barna makes the point that the modern philatelic world seems to be monopolized by collectors of postal history. I know the problem! I sometimes think that I'm the last stamp collector in the civilized world. Actually, if one digs down, it isn't quite as compartmentalized as many collectors would pretend. I certainly acquire covers to go with particular album pages of stamp types and colors etc. Also I look for covers for certain places in France and for showing particular periods in Second World War French Occupation history. The latter comes from having a close friend who was the Deputy for Vichy! Similarly, most postal history enthusiasts do have stamps that go with their displays of covers. Such collectors would help and encourage their newer colleagues if they did more "side by side" displays of stamps and covers.

The concentration on postal history is certainly fascinating and I am constantly astonished at the levels of detailed knowledge of obscure places, postal rates and chronology that have been acquired by colleagues. I enjoy their displays and their commentaries on them, but I am conscious that virtually all the material has been purchased from dealers or at auction, often at significant cost. There are occasional opportunities for rummaging through a mountain of covers in the hope of finding an unattributed gem but the possibilities are nothing like those available to stamp collectors at local fairs where there are opportunities to browse through album pages and largely unsorted stock books — and often find good but unrecognized items, even on occasion very rare stamps.

Part of the fun of collecting is the time spent at local fairs looking for inexpensive items for one's collection and, in particular, for potential displays. The more one acquires a knowledge

of how to recognize particular printings, color nuances, perforation variations and even paper types, the easier it is to recognize out-of-the-ordinary items. It is not difficult, but one needs to build up a basic philatelic library. I am always puzzled by collectors who spend significant sums of money on stamps or covers but who never spend anything on books providing key information on the items collected.

Those of us living outside France and who collect French material have a great advantage. One is unlikely to find unrecognized items amongst the stamps of one's own country where specialized knowledge of the national material is inevitably pervasive. It is different elsewhere and a dealer in my own English city once said to me that "if you can't make a profit from my stock, you shouldn't call yourself a French specialist." Essentially, his point was that he could only classify his world stock on very simplified lines, whereas the specialised collector would be able to find unconsidered trifles amongst his French material. Consequently it benefits the new collector to learn the necessary details of the relatively limited number of stamps that provide the best possibilities for misplaced classification.

There is a crucial point to make in relation to Carl Barna's letter and that is, simply, that one does not have to spend vast amounts of money to develop a worthwhile collection and to put on an interesting display. A late local *FCPS/GB* member used to buy large amounts of envelopes and fragments bearing current issues. He was always able to spot unusual usages or recognize types, such as stamps from booklets or roulettes, and also to find blocks and other multiples. I always enjoyed his displays.

Also, take my own experience. It is true that I am now able to display a goodly number of expensive classical and semi-modern examples, although some of them were purchased at ludicrously low prices as a result of their being unrecognized within collections at auction, but I am currently enjoying preparing a display of the Ronsard stamp, Yvert 209. This is a *petit timbre* with no expensive catalogued varieties. Even the proofs are within the reach of our average pocket money allowance. There is also a series of relatively inexpensive vignettes, and "used on cover" examples turn up in the

“tomato box” mountains of French covers. All this, plus some biographical paragraphs downloaded free from the internet, produces a very attractive but inexpensive display of a rarely featured stamp.

For those who can cope with reading French there is an excellent newsgroup for French philately:

`fr.rec.philatelie`

where answers to just about every question, however naïve, are provided, without any sense of elitism!

Finally, Carl Barna asks for advice as to areas of French philately to collect. I would urge him to stick initially with the railway cancels that he mentions in his letter. This is a fascinating area of collecting which I have not often come across. Most, though not all, of the many *convoyeur* cancellations are inexpensive and at fairs the “tomato boxes” of covers will invariably produce a number of railway cancellations amidst the tedious multiple examples of ordinary envelopes. I would be tempted to start by pulling out all the cheap envelopes with railway cancellations and to sort them into the different railway routes. Then one can select a number of routes and begin searching for covers showing intermediate journeys covered. It would certainly be satisfying to complete a route showing all the combinations of journey by the cancellations on cover.

There are a number of publications listing the railway cancellations, mainly written by Jean or Vincent Pothion at:

La Poste aux Lettres
17 Faubourg Montmartre
75009 Paris

This enterprise was taken over by Jean-François Baudot in 2006 and can be contacted at:

`jametbaudot@free.fr`

See also Guy Maggay’s excellent website:

<http://marcophilie.org/x/x-lit-i.html>

Carl Barna’s letter should make all of us concerned about the future of our hobby, and to think carefully about how we can make our

meetings, our fairs and our publications more accessible to newer collectors. Perhaps the *France and Colonies Philatelist* can help by including a column or two aimed at the many Carl Barnas of this world — and more of us will try and contribute such columns.

Member to Member

In the last issue a member asked about some offerings of French railway cancels. I am now able to offer the following:

I Railway Roundhouse.

Turning the 19th Century French tracks
from my house to yours

a) Railway cancels—an assortment of about 425 railway cachets on Empire and Ceres stamps to 1876, \$200.

b) Railway cancels—an assortment of about 500 railway cachets on type Sage stamps 1876-1900, \$100.

c) Railway cancels—an assortment of about 450 stamps and 25 covers with *convoyeur* cancels on type Sage, \$75.

The three lots, [2009 catalog over 3000 Euros], \$325.

II Railway Roundhouse 20th Century Limited.

A big assortment [102 covers, 3363 stamps] of early 20th Century French stamps and covers with identified collectable railway cancels.

Some surprises, and a value at about 10% 2009 catalog, \$500.

Sorry, U.S. members only — I don’t want the hassle of customs, VAT, or any such. Please note that “Assortment” means **there will be** some duplication.

John Lievsay
20 Center Drive
Old Greenwich CT 06870-1403

A Postal History Mystery — Solved!

Thomas W. Broadhead (FCPS 2830)

Purchased at a discounted price due in part to two missing stamps (but they are part of the story), this envelope could be characterized as “from here to there and back.” Tracing its many-part odyssey was helped by my Portuguese speaking colleagues, Timothy Woods, Euridice Silva-Filho, and Wanessa Martin at the University of Tennessee.

As shown in Fig. 1, the cover and its contents began at the Paris (61) Rue Legendre post office (17th Arrondissement) on 11 December 1924, addressed to *Estado de Sao Paolo* (sic), *No-roeste* (region of São Paulo) Brazil. Originally, it was franked with the 75c Ronsard (20 days before its demonetization) and probably three examples of the 25c Potier of the Decorative Arts

issue, just four days after its issue. They paid the 75c foreign letter rate (20g) and 75c foreign registry rate, both in effect from 1 April 1924.

Two of the presumed 25c Potier stamps were lost in transit: one from the top center of the envelope (partial black circular date stamp at top) and the other from the lower left (gum traces in the area of the purple date stamp). The purple date stamp, 20 Jan 1925, with indecipherable surrounding text, is the first Brazilian postal marking. Red ink manuscript at top (partly in the area of the missing top stamp) reads *Vide Verço* (see reverse) and is accompanied on the front by red linear strike through markings on the address and added “São Paulo” below.



Figure 1. Front of Mystery Cover from Brazil to Paris.

The story resumes on the reverse with a red ink manuscript marking *Requezitado pela Administração por offs n° 248 A. Linz 20 1° 1925*, (Requested by the administration by memo #248, A. Linz, 20 January 1925). The additional word in red script appears to be *nascimento* (birth), which makes no sense.

Upon arriving at the main post office in São Paulo, the envelope received a large oval purple hand stamp, *Posta Restante – Registradas – 31 JAN. 1925 – S. Paulo*, indicating that it was available for collection in general delivery. Almost four months later, it received a similar marking dated 29 MAIO 1925, followed by the black triangular and black square hand stamps dated JUN 1 in S. Paulo. The text on these is indistinct except for one side of the square marking – *RETOUR L'ENVOYEUR*. A pencil notation was then added at the bottom

of the envelope – *S. Paulo, 6 12 – 25 (12 June 1925)*.

Purple boxed hand stamps on the reverse – *NON RECLAMÉE* (unclaimed) – and on the front – *RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR* (Return to Sender) finally redirected the cover home to France. There, it made its way to the Paris Distribution post office in the 17th Arrondissement, with three circular date stamps of 26 and 27 June 1925 added on the reverse, together with a small black circular carrier hand stamp XVII over 22. On the front, the return address written in black script is *Expe[diteur] M. Garnier, 69 Rue Balagny* (a street in the 17th that was renamed in 1946).

Thus ends a merry chase through postal history interpretation.



Figure 2. Back of Mystery Cover from Brazil to Paris.

Amazing Originations and Destinations — From French Guiana to French India

Jeff Ward (FCPS 3142)

The cover shown below was mailed from Saint Laurent du Maroni, French Guiana, on 3 May 1938, to Pondichery, French India, arriving on 11 June 1938—a journey of 39 days. Although the strikes are faint or smudgy, it is possible to read them with a little help from a magnifying glass. The cover is addressed to "Madame M. L. Vigie, rue Labourdonnais, Pondichery, Inde Française." There is no return address. The handwriting at lower left indicates that the cover traveled via Bordeaux and Marseille, France. The amount of postage, the lack of additional markings, and the five and a half weeks of delivery all indicate that the cover went by surface transportation rather than by air. This means it proba-

blely went from Saint Laurent by small boat to Cayenne, the colony's capital; then by ship across the Atlantic to Bor-

deaux; then by train across France to Marseilles; then again by ship through the Mediterranean, the Suez Canal, the Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean to India.

The rates in effect in May 1938, were those established when domestic rates for French Guiana were increased effective August 16, 1937. Domestic rates applied to mail sent to France or other French colonies. The surface rate for the lowest weight step (less than 20 grams) was 65 centimes. This rate was in effect only until 20 December 1938, when the rates were increased again.

The cover is franked with a single copy of the 65c salmon and green definitive of the 1929 pictorial series. The design features three natives canoeing through rapids. The cover is a nice *solo use* of a fairly short-lived rate, and is paid for with a stamp that is rather difficult to find on a non-philatelic cover.

Saint Laurent is located on the Maroni River which forms the border between French Guiana and Suriname. At the time, it was French Guiana's second largest town and contained the headquarters and many facilities of the colony's infamous penitentiary system. Pondichery was the capital of French India and the largest of the five settlements that made up that colony.

This is the only cover I have found from French Guiana to any destination in Asia. Covers from French Guiana during its stamp issuing period (1886-1950) are not numerous. This is not surprising given that during those years, the colony had a low literacy rate and a population that never exceeded 35,000. Even so, the scarcity of covers to Asia is odd, especially considering that there were Indochinese immigrant settlements in French Guiana at the time.



Figure 1. Seldom seen origination/destination showing clear arrival backstamp in French India.

Amazing Originations and Destinations — From Reunion to Tahiti

David L. Herendeen (FCPS 2532)

The cover shown in Fig. 1 below was mailed from St. Denis, Réunion, a small but strategic island in the Indian Ocean, on 15 December 1897 to the equally small island of Tahiti in the south Pacific. The letter arrived in Papeete on 26 February 1898—a journey of more than 70 days. All of the strikes, including the arrival backstamp, are very clean and readable.

The letter was unfranked, and the intercolonial letter rate at this time was 25c. Since the letter was unpaid, two times the deficiency was charged, i.e. 50c. The fine was paid using the second imperforate Duval (colored) postage due issue. The number of all postage due stamps used in Tahiti (or French Oceania, if we prefer) was very small, and this is the first 50c I have seen.

Now, exactly how did this letter go from Reunion to Tahiti in 10 weeks? The Ligne 2 paquebot service connected Reunion with the British island of Mauritius. From there, numerous ships carried mail eastbound to Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney (Australia), Colombo (Ceylon), Auckland (New Zealand) and Noumea (New Caledonia.) This letter may have been privately carried on several ships, finally arriving in Papeete. There are no markings to validate this route, but it is more likely than having made the longer trip westward.

However, as always, French colonial scholar **Ed Grabowski** has come to the rescue. He has in his collection a cover that was mailed in the other direction, from Papeete to Réunion, six years later. The front and back of the cover are shown as Figs. 3 and 4.



Figure 1. Very usual unpaid letter from Reunion to Tahiti ("Taity").

This cover shows the full docketing on the reverse indicating the eastward voyage. The adjoining table indicates the route, mileage between ports and travel time. This transit time

of 65 days is quite similar to the 73 days taken by the cover in Fig. 1

End Note

Distances were found using the web site:

<http://www.daftlogic.com/projects-google-maps-distance-calculator.htm>

*The distances are “as the crow flies” so sailing distances, and times, will be much greater than those shown

Route of Cover shown in Fig. 2

From	To	Days	Miles*
Papeete	Auckland	16	2,547
Auckland	Colombo	26	6,784
Colombo	Mauritius	22	2,412
Mauritius	Réunion	1	142



Figure 2. Very usual unpaid letter from Tahiti to Reunion, 21 Oct 1903.



Figure 3. Reverse of letter from Papeete to Réunion showing complete docketing Papeete-Auckland-Colombo-Mauritius-Réunion..

William H. Gross France and Colonies Sold

William H. Gross, well-known collector, exhibitor and philanthropist, sold his France and colonies material (along with German Offices and Colonies, Italian States and Spain) through Spink Shreves Galleries on 19 May 2010. The sale was held at their galleries in New York. As we have seen previously, Mr. Gross donated all of the proceeds from this sale to charity. This time the recipients of his largesse were *Médecins Sans Frontières*.

While not an extensive holding of France and colonies, the lots featured many of the greatest rarities including those that previously graced the legendary collections of Ferrary, Caspary, Hind, Burrus, "Lafayette" and many others.

In order to record some of these amazing items, your editor has decided to include a few pages of highlights in this *FCP*. Not so much that we could ever afford them, but that certainly doesn't mean that we can't deeply appreciate them. You will notice the Mr. Gross's France was much superior to his colonial holdings which, one might guess, were never developed with nearly the same gusto. (In the following descriptions, all catalogue numbers refer to those of Yvert & Tellier.

Lot 7, an unused block of 6 No. 8a including the inverted *cliché*, No. 8d. Estimated at \$81,400, sold for \$85,000+.

Lot 9, one of the great French rarities with only three known, the unused *tête-bêche* pair of No. 4c. Estimated at \$185,000, sold for \$72,500.

Lot 15, No. 7 and No. 3, 1849 1Fr Vermilion with 20c Black on yellowish cancelled by two strikes of mute lozenge grid to fresh 1849 folded letter paying the 1Fr20 rate to Rome, Italy, clear double circle "Moissey/16 Oct 49" datestamp at top left, and other transit cancels. Only three covers recorded with this franking and part of the "Lafayette" collection. Estimated at \$100,000-\$150,00 and hammered down for \$70,000.

Lot 17, No. 6e, 1849 1Fr Light carmine on yellowish, *tête-bêche*, a showpiece unused hori-

zontal "face to face" *tête-bêche* pair widely regarded as one of the greatest 1849-50 Ceres issue *tête-bêche* rarities extant, with only four unused examples recorded. The inverted *cliché* comes only from position 35 from the first plate used to print the 1Fr value. Illustrated in the 2000 Yvert Specialized and 2003 Yvert catalogs. This incredible rarity has graced the collections of Ferrary, Hind and "Lafayette." Estimated at \$235,000 and hammered down for \$190,000.

Although the French colonies were not represented by a large number of individual lots, there were a few major and seldom seen items. These included:

Lot 88, Martinique No. 1B, the 1886 "Martinique/5c" small "5" surcharge on 20c. With a printing of only 25 examples, this is the greatest rarities of Martinique and the key to completing a collection of the colony. From the Gibraltar collection. Estimated at \$12,000 and hammered down for \$8,500. A bargain against this stamps €17,000 Y&T catalogue value.

Lot 89, Martinique No. 15, the 1888 "Martinique/15c" Surcharge on 4c. The second key to Martinique with a printing of only 50. Also from the Gibraltar collection. Estimated at \$9,000 and hammered down for \$5,250. Again rather lower than the Y&T catalogue of €12,500 Y&T catalogue value.

Lot 94, Réunion No. 1, 1852 15c Black on blue typeset issue. This exceedingly rare issue proved unpopular on the island, few were actually used and only a tiny number of mint examples were retained. This is also the Gibraltar copy. With a catalogue value of €42,000, this stamp was estimated at \$36,000 and hammered down for \$19,000.

Lot 99. The balance of Mr. Gross' French Colonies collection was sold *en masse*. With a catalogue value stated to "far exceed \$150,000," it sold for \$47,500 against an estimate of \$20,000-\$30,000.

All data and illustration courtesy of Mr. Charles Shreve of Spink Shreves Galleries.



Lot 15



Lot 7



Lot 9



Lot 17

*Lot 28**Lot 71**Lot 94**Lot 89**Lot 88*

Covers from Nowhere to Nowhere — A Gold Miner Sends his Earnings Home?

Paul F. (Fred) Edinger (FCPS 2261)

It is easy to label a post office in an obscure corner of the world as a “nowhere.” The cover shown below was mailed from one of the most obscure and short lived political entities of recent times...the Inini Territory of northeastern South America. Sent from the gold mining camp, main settlement, and administrative capital of St. Elie (highlighted in Fig. 1a), this envelope was directed towards an only slightly less obscure destination, the small town of Vieux Fort on the southern tip of the (then British ruled) island of St. Lucia in the West Indies as seen in Fig. 1b.

The cover is shown in Fig. 2. It was mailed from St. Elie on 23 November 1937, the cover has a registered back stamp of 9 December 1937 from the capital of Castries, St. Lucia. The front shows a St. Elie registration etiquette

along with a declared value of 150 francs. A stamped “CHARGÉ” marking is noted along with a manuscript notation of 9 gr. Postage with a total face value of 5 francs 25 centimes has been affixed using three copies of the 1933 1 franc 75 centimes definitive issue in red brown and brown black.

Inini Territory (Territoire de l'Inini) was an administrative unit carved out of French Guiana in an apparent effort by the French Government to exercise more effective control of the very lucrative gold mining activities in the interior. A decree issued in June of 1930 established the Territory. Postage stamps were provided in April of 1932 by means of the overprinting of the then current French Guiana definitives with the legend Territoire de l'ININI. This political arrangement lasted only until 1946 when Inini became a dependent territory



Fig. 1a. Map of French Guinea
(from www.worldatlas.com)



Fig. 1b. Map of St. Lucia
(from www.worldatlas.com)

of French Guiana when French Guiana itself became an overseas department of France.

The connection with St. Lucia is explained by the fact that miners from that small Caribbean island were "exported" as labor on the gold fields of the St. Elie placer. St. Lucia (along with Dominica) was a major source of manpower in these Inini Territory gold mines. Large numbers of St. Lucians emigrated to French Guiana and then into the interior. As is the case with emigrant labor in our 21st century world, the emigrants would send remittances home, in this case to St. Lucia. One can surmise that Madame Laurence MATIE of Vieux

Fort was the mother (or wife) of a miner and that the aforementioned 150 francs was the very welcome enclosure (along with a letter) contained in this envelope from an isolated post office deep in the Amazon rain forest.

No matter how unknown and short lived the Territory of Inini was, and how small and out-of-the-way St. Lucia is, this is really a letter from somewhere to somewhere. It tells us a story of people trying to make a living in this world. It tells us also of the real importance a postal system, and of the stories that can be told by philately.



Figure 2. Registered letter from St. Elie, Inini (French Guiana) to Vieux Fort, St. Lucia in the Caribbean.

Douala, Cameroun – Non-Maritime use of the PAQUEBOT Handstamp

M.P. Bratzel, Jr. (FCPS 2394)

In the late 1920s, France introduced single-line omnibus “Paquebot” handstamps, to be applied to loose letters received from a ship. Post offices at numerous French ports of call used these virtually identical devices. The Paquebot handstamp introduced at Douala, Cameroun was, however, damaged early on, such that the leg of the P is bent and broken (Fig. 1). This is usually hard to see, since the mark was generally poorly applied to the incoming mail. Hosking¹ records use at Douala between 1936 and 1965. The author has examples applied at the Douala post office to in-bound mail between 8 October 1930 and 22 September 1956. An incoming post card postmarked Douala 19 May 1929 *without* a Paquebot mark leads the author to conclude that the Paquebot handstamp was not yet available on that date.

Also to hand are two *out-bound* letters with the Paquebot handstamp. One (Fig. 2, top) is postmarked Mbalmayo 22 Sep 53, a town well inland; and the other (Fig. 2, bottom) Douala à Yaounde - I 23 Sep 53, a railroad postmark. A fellow collector has shared another similar example in his collection. After much puzzlement, the solution has been divined.

The envelopes are all postmarked during September 1953 and all are marked “par avion.” However, in no case was the postage paid sufficient for air mail. The practice at the time, depending on the amount of postage actually paid, was to either charge postage due for the deficiency for air transport or to cross out *par avion* and write in *voie maritime*, that is, surface transport. It appears that an enterprising clerk at the Douala post office, perhaps to

save time, rather than adding a handwritten notation for surface transport, used instead the Paquebot handstamp to indicate that the out-going letter should be transported by ship. The practice was apparently quickly discontinued!

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to Jim Forte, Michael Wright, and Rob May for providing these examples. Comments are always welcome.

Reference

1. Hosking, Roger. *Paquebot Cancellations of the World*. 3rd edition, published by Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, Derby, United Kingdom, 2000.



Figure 1. The Douala PAQUEBOT Handstamp.



Figure 2. Improper use of the PAQUEBOT Cancel on Mail from Inland Towns.

Too Good to be True?

Ralph DeBoard (FCPS 3323)

Six months ago, I came across the large part cover shown in Fig. 1 on eBay. As you will see, it is franked 25c which is the correct international letter rate at the time. The postage is paid with a 10c Group Type stamp from the first issue for Oceania (Y&T 5), and a 15c blue provisional of Tahiti with the large, diagonal handstamped overprint (Y&T 12). Note that the postmarks on the piece are dated 16 Feb 1893.

The Anomaly

This combination usage is rather interesting in that the even though the new Oceania stamps were available, the Tahiti provisionals were still being created. According to the 1936 Yvert catalogue, the 10c Group Type was printed in November 1892, and the Tahiti overprint on 1 July 1893. This results in a slight problem: how could this piece have been canceled on 16 February 1893 four and one-half months before the

appearance of the TAHITI overprint? I looked closely at the cover and wondered if the TAHITI overprint may have been forged on the stamp. If so — assuming that the underlying piece is genuine and the 15c was a Type Dubois general colonial issue (Y&T 51) — then the overprint would have been applied **on** the cancel.

I recently exhibited my Tahiti postal history collection at the NAPEX show in Washington DC. Our editor, **Dave Herendeen**, was a member of the jury at the show. In discussing this item with him, he reminded me of the forensic analysis device that the Smithsonian National Postal Museum (NPM) has right there in DC. It ends up that Dave was going to be spending a couple of days after the show at the NPM and he agreed to look at the item while there.

He worked with Tom Lera, head of research at the NPM. They used the Video Spectral Comparator (VSC) 6000 device to study this piece



Figure 1. Subject item, large part envelope dated 16 Feb 1893 from Papeete, Tahiti to Oakland, CA.

under various type of lighting. The VSC is widely used by forensic laboratories to identify



Figure 2. The VSC 6000 at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

forged documents such as passports and visas used by criminals. A picture of this device is shown in Fig.2

The Problem

Because of the date anomaly, we thought that there was a good chance that the TAHITI overprint was added **above** the cancellation on the 15c stamp. Fig. 3 shows the stamp and cancel magnified 800% under perfect light. Then, in Fig. 4, the stamp was studied under ultraviolet light with wavelength 365 nanometers. Finally, the Fig. 3 image was inverted resulting in Fig. 4.

The Possibilities

Although difficult to discern in these figures, it appeared to Dave that the TAHITI overprint was above the cancel, i.e. forged. However, because of the black ink used for both the overprint and cancel, this conclusion may not be posed with absolute certainty. Can you tell? Member **Ed Grabowski** also suggests the possibility of the cancelling device being misdated.

Because it is now suspected, as a follow-on I will be two possibilities. Perhaps a another member familiar with these overprints will be able to lend their expertise to this pursuit. Anyone interest may contact me at:

rcd3015@cox.net



Figure 3. Enlargement of subject cancel.



Figure 4. Enlargement of subject cancel.



Figure 5. Enlargement of subject cancel.

President's Letter

It is hot as heck here in Akron, and from what I see it is just as hot over most of the country today. Our weekend house guest was kind enough to ask about my collecting habit, so it was a great excuse to get out part of my Algerian exhibit and show it off. Which leads me to my first point.

Time is short to plan for our November meeting at CHICAGOPEX. We expect to have dinner together on Friday night as we did last time we met. Probably not a French restaurant this time, but it is the quality of the company more than the food that will make it a memorable evening. So please make your plans, finish your exhibit, reserve a room, make a plane reservation, or whatever you must to be at the show. We have French friends attending, too, so we should not moan about the distance or cost of travel. And they are even seeing the euro drop a little against the dollar, so their trip will not be the bargain it looked like a couple of months ago. (Note: This will change, of course. Were I able to forecast currency changes, I would be in a different tax bracket entirely.)

Next, we are moving along on digitizing the *France and Colonies Philatelist*. While not yet finished, the process is on track. Good news for anyone who wants to do some research in the old magazines. As an aside, I am hopeful that members may write more often for the journal, since an electronic search engine will greatly increase the shelf life and accessibility of those articles.

Let me add a quick note that my travels to Kansas wound up in late June. I haven't caught up on philately yet, but every day I make progress. It's a great pleasure to again be living at home.

That's it for this quarter. See you in Chicago!! When one has no more to say it is time to sit down and be quiet. I am sitting down.

Share Your Knowledge

David L. Herendeen, Editor

This issue of the *FCP* is somewhat different than most. We have more articles of a shorter length. This has been one of my ideas, and we finally have enough shorts to be able to do it. It would only seem logical that by having more short articles that more members would find something of interest to them.

Each of us collects something we have selected because, I assume, the subject interests us. As you can see from the exhibits of our members, there is a wide range of seldom studied subjects. The studies of these subjects lead invariably to interesting discoveries or conclusions. While most are not earth shattering, they are often interesting. Please consider sharing a stamp variety or cover story with our members. Share your knowledge. As editor, I am here to help and will do whatever I can to make your contribution painless.

Four Months to Go

To my knowledge, 17 members have officially applied to exhibit at our exhibition to be held at CHICAGOPEX in November. These are noted in the article on page 86. By the next *FCP*, we should have a tentative schedule of speakers and a layout of our time. We have been given a meeting room for all day Thursday (10 AM to 5 PM) and on Friday until noon.

We also expect to have a Friday night dinner which, as President Nilsestuen noted, is in the process of being organized. The administration has also discussed the possibility of a hospitality suite and we will know about this by the next issue.

Also, please read the article on page 86 and preregister. It helps us insure a smooth running show.

eMail News

To keep everyone up to date with the latest developments, I plan to send emails to all members. If we do not have your email, or if you think it may have changed, please ping me as soon as possible.

We Get Letters

I can appreciate the concerns which Mr. Barna expressed in his letter (*FCP*, Vol. 66, No. 2, p. 50) requesting more introductory material and guidance for beginners from philatelic publications. I collected stamps in my youth, but with no guidance, so the "collection" lacked focus and depth. I began collecting again as an adult when I ran across a set of pages from a French album at a stamp show less than two years ago. Having majored in French in college, I was sufficiently knowledgeable in the language to understand what subjects various stamps were commemorating. The person who had put the collection together had a lot of stamps which paid homage to World War II heroes, a subject which I found interesting. I began studying them on my own and discovered that I really admired French Resistance hero and martyr, Jean Moulin.

I would like to offer some tips to Mr. Barna. First, despite protestations about not wanting to "sell one's first child," if one is serious about having some focus in a collection, a certain amount of time and money will need to be expended. In my case, I chose to focus on one individual, Jean Moulin, the quintessential hero of the French Resistance. France has issued three stamps in his honor, but in order to tell his story, I have collected many others as well, with the earliest being the 1902 redrawn Rights of Man issue. I have found that I use three different catalogs, depending upon where I buy materials. The Scott catalog numbers are used by American dealers. Europeans mainly use Yvert & Tellier numbers. The Maury, Ceres, and Dal-lay catalog has the most in-depth information. In addition to catalogs, I have purchased a dozen or so books on Mr. Moulin and the Resistance, as well as some more general books that are pertinent. Books on postal history are also invaluable. So, a collector ends up spending some money for books and informational material, unless he or she is incredibly fortunate to have a world-class public library nearby.

My most important source of information, however, is not in books. I joined both the American and British France and Colonies Philatelic Societies, as well as the American Philatelic Society (APS). APS has a mentor program. You

can get a mentor who specializes in your area. I have been most fortunate to get French-area collector, **Tom Broadhead**, as my mentor. He has published articles and produced award-winning entries for shows. He is helping me to develop a paper about Jean Moulin and the Resistance and is also encouraging me to try my hand at a one-frame exhibit. His patience and guidance have saved me several years of what would have been frustrating learning on my own. I cannot recommend enough getting a mentor to get through the first focused area.

Tom has also introduced me to items like "épreuves" (proofs), "essais" (color trial printings), maximum cards (generally preferable for a French collection to first day covers), etc. He has also emphasized the importance of postal usages of stamps, so that my collection includes covers and commemorative cancellations.

In addition to assembling materials and getting a mentor, my other main tip would be to make sure that you find the object of your specialization to be something that will hold your interest, and that you will feel makes a compelling story. By collecting twentieth century, I have avoided the major cost associated with a lot of the older material. Plus, this material is usually more readily available. You will find, though, that you are spending enough time, if not money, on your collection that you do not want to get bored with it or question whether the investment is worth it. So begin by looking at various French and Colonial stamps and asking yourself, "What do I find interesting here? What would I like to study further?" As for the items that you mentioned in your letter, from railway cancels to Madagascar and *Grand Comore* to early French stamps, you can look at what dealers have at stamp shows or in their stores and on Internet sites like Delcampe to see what materials are available for given topics. Internet book dealers are also a good source for general knowledge about a topic. I have had to order every book that I have on my special area.

I wish you luck and enjoyment with whatever area you select and look forward to eventually seeing a publication or exhibit about it.

Beverly Rice (FCPS 3418)

We thank Ms. Rice for an excellent letter to Mr. Barna and others struggling to find a compelling and affordable specialty. As she notes, though, one must expend some funds and even more labor of love to build a good collection. By definition, it can't come free.

Ms. Rice also mentions the importance of a mentor in the process of building a collection and, even more importantly, an exhibit. Prof. Broadhead is a contributor to these pages and a booster of the FCPS (come to CHICAGOPEX, meet him, and hear his talk!) He, like many of our senior members, is very helpful to anyone asking for help. Should any member be having a problem that we might help with, please don't hesitate to send an email to the editor. I will be pleased to forward it to a member with expertise in the area of your query.

Time to Vote for FCPS Officers

The final nominations for FCPS officers are:

President: Kenneth R. Nilsestuen (OH)
Vice President: Dr. Norval Rasmussen (WV)
Treasurer: Jeff Ward (CA)
Corresponding Secretary: Joel Bromberg (NY)
Recording Secretary: Dr. Edward Grabowski (NJ)
Director: Stephen T. Tucker (NV)
Director: Ralph DeBoard (OK)

The ballot for the election appears as an insert in this issue. Votes must be recorded by 15 September 2010, and results will be announced in the October 2010 FCP.

— CHICAGO —
NOW IS THE TIME

Reserve your
Hotel Room Now!

Membership Notices

NEW MEMBERS

3426 Packard, Stuart, Bloomfield Hills, MI

ADDRESS CHANGES

3356 Barna, Carl, Allentown, PA

3190 Charron, Jacques, Longueuil, QC, Canada

MAIL RETURNED

3379 Pennacchiotti, Stéphane, Chenimenil, France

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

1332 Barker, George E.

1173 De la Mettrie, Capt. A.

3399 Sullivan, Joseph C.

DECEASED

1903 Nussbaum, Ralph J.

Write for the FCP Share your Knowledge

Show Reports

NAPEX 2010

Maclean, VA, May 2010

Gold medal to **Ralph DeBoard** for his "The Postal History of Tahiti through the First Pictorial Issue." **Dave Herendeen** was a member of the jury.

NOJEX 2010

Secaucus, NJ May 2010

Gold medals to **Mike Bass** received for his "Foreign Post Offices in the Holy Land 1852-1914," which includes lovely material from the French Office, **Ralph DeBoard** for his "The Postal History of Tahiti through the First Pictorial Issue," and **Ed Grabowski** for his "Postal History of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Madagascar & Dependencies." **Note that all of these fine gentlemen will be attending and showing at our exhibition in Chicago!**

Chicago Looks to Bring Many Members Together Again

As our Annual Meeting and Exhibition gets closer, it is clear that we will once again have a great turnout.

At this writing, the following members have indicated that they plan to attend the meeting. Our officers and directors are noted by "O", speakers by "S" and exhibitors by "E"

Carl Barna
Mike Bass (S,E)
Marty Bratzel (S)
Tom Broadhead (S,E)

Ralph DeBoard (E)
Jack Dykhouse

John R Fagan

Larry Gardner (E)
Jamie Gough (Judge)
Jean Govanic (S) (*de l'Académie de Philatélie*)
Ed Grabowski (O,S,E)

Dave Herendeen (O,S,E)

Bob Kinsley (E)
Al Kugel

Eliot Landau (E)
Paul Larsen (E)
Stan Luft (E)

Ethan Mazaraki
Patricia Moeser (E)

Ken Nilsestuen (O,E)

Roger Quinby

Norval Rasmussen (O,E)

Gerald F. Schroedl (E)
Greg Sutherland (Dealer)

Jean-Jacques Tillard (E)
Steve Tucker (E)

Jeff Ward (O,E)

Dealers

At this point, we will have one certain dealer in France and Colonies postal history, **David Wrigley** (see ad page 91). David, living in Thailand, specializes in finding very difficult material on his many annual buying trips to Paris. Many of us have dealt with him for years. A number of dealers from Paris have expressed an interest in visiting, but at this writing it is too early for them to commit.

Dealer member **Greg Sutherland** also will have a stand at the show. Members might stop by and meet him.

Preregistration

As we did last year, name badges will be prepared for those who preregister. All those listed above will be preregistered unless they request otherwise, others may simply email the Editor to be placed on the list. Doing so will greatly simplify our proceedings.

Help! Need emails

In sending members information about the CHICAGOPEX show, a number of emails were not delivered. Could the following members please update the emails with the Secretary or Editor.

Also, there are still dozens of members for whom we do not have email addresses. Could you please let us know your email address so you don't miss out on any exciting news.

Nils Agrell, Wallace Craig, John Englund, Lee Gordon, John Grace, Charles Jarvis, Raymond LaPlace, Arnold Miller, Edward Nyberg, Jr., James Rock, David St. Maurice, Gerald Smiley, Gary Walls, David Wilcock

CHICAGOPEX 2010 —Some Exhibit Teas-

We will be having a number of exhibits that few, if any, of us have had an opportunity to see in detail. Two of these are highlighted here as described by the title page or synopsis provided by the exhibitor.

Postal History of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Use in Madagascar & Dependencies

Ed Grabowski

Madagascar & Dependencies represents one of the most complex and postally rich regions for the period of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type's use. The basic stamps (1c to 1F and 1c to 5F in some Colonies) were delivered in late 1892 as the first definitive issue for use throughout the twenty nine colonies comprising the French Colonial Empire. The names of each colony were printed separately on the basic Navigation and Commerce Allegorical designs. Original colors conformed to the current French choices, but new colors were issued in 1900 for some of the values to conform to UPU standards. Madagascar received its Group Type stamps in 1896 when it became a Colony. Surrounding Colonies received their own Group Type stamps on the indicated first date, and were subsequently placed under the administration of Madagascar on the second date:

- ♦ Anjouan – 1892/1911
- ♦ Diego Suarez – 1892/1896
- ♦ Grand Comoro – 1897/1911
- ♦ Mayotte – 1892/1911
- ♦ Moheli – 1906/1911
- ♦ Nossi-Bé – 1894/1906
- ♦ Sainte Marie de Madagascar 1894/1900

Nossi-Bé and Sainte Marie de Madagascar were administered by Diego Suarez from 1894. In 1898 Anjouan, Grand Comoro and Moheli were made dependencies of Mayotte. Ultimately all

of these entities became part of Madagascar & Dependencies and are examined in this exhibit. As administrations coalesced, stamps were interchangeably used amongst all entities. In 1912 Group Type remainders were overprinted 05 and 10 in Paris in an effort to consume existing stocks. These were extensively used throughout Madagascar & Dependencies. A full array of Group Type postal stationery (envelopes, postal cards and letter cards) was also prepared for all entities.

This exhibit examines all aspects of the use of the Group Type stamps and stationery in all of what ultimately became Madagascar & Dependencies. The postal history of the area reflects the extensive development of French influence therein, particularly on the island of Madagascar itself. The outer colonies of Diego Suarez, Nossi-Bé and Mayotte represent the areas of established French influence when the Group Type stamps were issued, and serve to begin the exhibit. Use of the Group Type stamps from the other entities (Anjouan, Grand Comoro, Moheli and Sainte Marie-de-Madagascar) that ultimately became part of Madagascar & Dependencies follows chronologically.

The use of the Group Type Issue is developed via covers and postal stationery illustrating prevailing rates and postal practices. The following standard rates occur throughout the exhibit: 5c - printed matter including price lists, visiting cards, greeting cards, short message post cards (12 words or less), marriage and death notices, etc.; 10c - long message post cards, city until April 1906, return receipts and French Community from April 1906 until January 1917; 15c - military correspondence until January 1899, intracolony until April 1906 and French Community from January 1899 until April 1906; 25c French Community until January 1899 and foreign letter throughout. Multiple weights apply to all categories. Other rates are noted as encountered, particularly registration (normally 25c plus postage) and insured declared value letters (postage by weight, registration plus insurance based on value). The weight level was 15 grams

until April 1906, when it became 20grams and 50 grams for the first two levels.

Since Madagascar is such a vast colony, numerous examples of mail from the smaller villages are shown. This is most probably the largest accumulation of small village material ever assembled for the Group Type. A special section on Madagascar numeral cancellations is also presented. These were used provisionally as the colony was rapidly developing and the post office was unable to quickly provide datestamps in the standard village format. Reflecting the military's involvement in the developing colony, troops involved in combat prior to 1899 and all troops thereafter were entitled to military franchise privileges, and this example of non-use of the Group Type is examined very briefly during and at the end of the exhibit. Often this is the first category of mail from newly formed post offices. Misuse of the stamps as bisects (totally unneeded) and due stamps is noted. The exhibit concludes with a brief section on the use of the Group Type overprints created by the colony after World War I. These represent the latest official use of the Group Type stamps of any colony.

Balloon Cards of the Franco-German War - 1870-1871

Tom Broadhead

This exhibit emphasizes the range of uses and rates of balloon postcards during the approximately four months that they were in use. Post cards, today a convenient and inexpensive means of sending short messages by mail, were first introduced for public use in France during the early weeks of the Franco-German War. The postal declaration of September 26 (*bandelette* for packet of formula cards) authorizing their use, effective 27 September 1870 (first day usage), specified the size of the card and the postal rate structure, which was discounted to 10 centimes for domestic destinations (France, Algeria). Following the failure of unmanned balloons (*ballon non monté* or *ballon libre*) in September 1870, cards were sent in the customary manned balloons (*ballon monté*), but the use of post cards diminished throughout the war.

A census of more than 3,000 pieces of balloon

mail in French auction catalogues (Roumet, Robineau, Cérès, Behr, Lugdunum, Soluphil) over a 7 year period indicates that post cards comprised not more than 5% of all balloon mail, making them the rarest class of balloon mail. Of that number, only approximately one third bear transit or receiving marks, and Cohn (1998) made the important argument that identification of the transporting balloon can be done reliably only on the basis of transit and receiving date stamps. Cards sent to foreign destinations (examples — Netherlands, Belgium, England, Switzerland, only reported card to the United States) number approximately only 15% of those to domestic locations, and only two thirds of those to foreign destinations (0.5% of all balloon mail) bear the essential receiving or transit marks. No reports exist of balloon cards sent to many foreign destinations known to have received balloon letters, and not all balloons carried post cards.

Domestic cards could be sent for 10c, half of the letter rate, but cards to foreign destinations required postage at foreign letter rates. The majority of domestic cards were posted in September and early October, but were not dispatched until late October.^{1,2} Expedited dispatch of domestic cards during that time was rare (examples; only reported "*plie confié*" to a foreign destination — entrusted to aeronauts outside of the Paris mail). The scarcity of cards sent abroad reflects the fact that more could be written, in confidence, on a sealed lettersheet than on a small card. Otherwise, cards received the same handling as letters, including forwarding (forwarded from Belgium to occupied France), and rare examples demonstrate delayed delivery into the post-war period.

In addition to postcards mailed directly by balloon post, small printed formula cards for return reply (*Dépêche Réponse*) could be mailed by balloon from Paris enclosed in sealed letters (broadside advertising this service). The respondent answered the four *oui-ou-non* questions on the card, franked with a 5c stamp that typically was uncanceled. Responses were photographed, microfilmed, and returned to Paris by pigeon post for transcribing.

Prepayment of postage was mandatory, and rare cards that were mailed without stamps were charged triple the rate (30c due). Partially

paid cards (20c to Belgium) also received postage due notations. Both underpaid and overpaid (20c local) cards are particularly rare.

The most common stamp used on balloon cards was the 10c laureated Napoleon III. The 10c Cérès "siege issue," printed from plates originally used for the first 10c stamp in 1850, is less common, due to its appearance during the declining use of balloon cards. Cards franked with the 5c Napoleon III are particularly rare. International destinations typically received combinations of the 10c, 20c, 30c, and 40c laureated Napoleon or the 10c and 20c Cérès.

With war-induced shortages, Parisians were resourceful in their use of cards, including cut pieces of ordinary card stock and visiting cards (*cartes de visite*). Entrepreneurs produced pre-printed formula cards, one type of which acknowledged the mode of transport with the slogan "*Correspondance Aérienne*" printed on the reverse.

A hiatus exists in the use of post cards by the French postal system between the end of the war in February, 1871 and the formula card period, beginning January 15, 1873. Thus, French post cards are not known with the retaliatory French-German frankings.

References

1. Cohn, E.M. 1997. "Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories," *France & Colonies Philatelist*, v. 53, no. 2, p. 50.
2. Cohn, E.M. 1998. "World's First Air Mail Post Cards," *American Philatelist*, v. 112, no. 11, p. 1018-1024.

Les Entiers Postaux aux Types «Alphée Dubois» et «Groupe» à Saint-Pierre et Miquelon

J.-J. Tillard

J.-J. Tillard has submitted applications for several exhibits this year. Those who attended last year's annual meeting in Denver were pleased to welcome Jean-Jacques who travelled from the exotic French archipelago which has the interesting status of *overseas collectivity within France*.

Along with his wife and daughter, the entire

family has had considerable success exhibiting St.-Pierre et Miquelon material. One of his new exhibits, the title page of which is shown on the following page, presents a comprehensive study of the postal stationery from 1885 until 1911. As noted in the exhibit title, this covers all of the stationery with indicia in the design of the Dubois and Group type stamps.

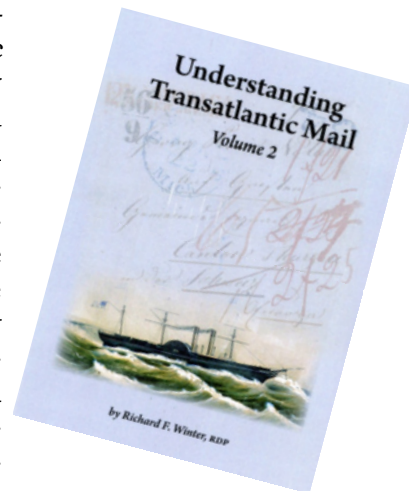
Others

One of the really exciting occurrences is that we will have three of the premier North African exhibits being shown for the first time in the same venue. These are President **Ken Nilsen-tuen's** Algeria, winner of the FCPS Grand Prix in 2008, **Larry Gardner's** Morocco, which has won National Grand awards, and **Norval Rasmussen**, our VP, showing his array of Tunisian material. A veritable feast of desert delights.

Winter Book gets Large Gold

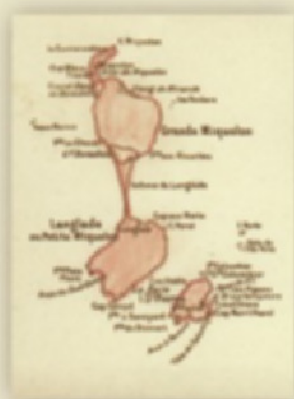
Long-time member **Dick Winter**, RDP, recently published the second volume of his series *Understanding Transatlantic Mail*. This new book received a Large Gold medal at the international show London 2010. Large Gold medals are only rarely awarded to literature exhibits, and testify to the importance and excellence of this

new volume. This volume features five mail systems not covered in volume I. These are Belgium, Netherlands, Hamburg, the North German Union and Switzerland. The book is available from the APS (100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823). It size is 600 pages of richly illustrated, 8½x11 in pages. The price is \$76 for APS members and \$95 for non-members.



LES ENTIERS POSTAUX AUX TYPES «ALPHEE DUBOIS» ET «GROUPE» A SAINT-PIERRE ET MIQUELON

L'archipel français de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, d'une superficie de 242 km², se trouve sur la côte Est du Canada, à l'embouchure du Saint-Laurent et à 18 km de Terre-Neuve.



Autrefois appelée Colonie française, cet archipel vit la création de sa Poste officielle le 1er mars 1854. Par contre, son approvisionnement en timbres-poste des colonies générales ne débuta qu'en 1859. Ainsi, ces timbres seront utilisés pendant plusieurs décennies.

Ce n'est qu'en 1887, soit deux ans après sa création, qu'apparaît le premier entier postal des colonies générales. Ce produit, envoyé dans toutes les colonies françaises de l'époque, est totalement méconnu localement. Cette fabrication permettait d'obtenir un support papier dans lequel un timbre était imprimé.

Ce port payé, relativement pratique, n'a pas enthousiasmé les usagers du service postal de nos îles. D'ailleurs, de nos jours, les entiers postaux oblitérés sont des pièces rares. Trois sortes d'entiers verront le jour : la carte postale, la carte-lettre et l'enveloppe.

L'administration postale de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon était autonome depuis janvier 1885 mais ce n'est qu'en 1892 seulement que les lettres « S P M » frappèrent les entiers « cartes postales » et « cartes-lettres » au type Alphée Dubois, en stock. Avant cela, seule l'oblitération permettait de distinguer l'origine de ce produit. L'année suivante, soit 1893, les entiers au type Groupe feront leurs apparitions et cette fois-ci, les « enveloppes » arriveront également sur l'archipel.

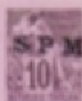
Aucun entier postal ne fut émis de 1895 à 1899, de 1902 à 1907 et de 1909 à 1910.

Près de trente années de travail ont permis de réaliser cette étude poussée. Elle présente les entiers sous toutes leurs formes, exhibe les différentes surcharges et détaille rigoureusement les variétés dont certaines sont exposées pour la première fois.

Pièces rares

CARTE POSTALE

Ce côté est exclusivement réservé à l'adresse.



M

PLAN

Type Alphée Dubois :

Page 2 : Année 1885, la surcharge « SPECIMEN »

Pages 3 et 4 : Année 1887, les entiers des colonies oblitérés SPM

Pages 5 à 23 : Année 1892, les cartes postales et cartes-lettres surchargées

Type Groupe :

Pages 24 à 54 : Année 1893, les différentes cartes postales, cartes-lettres et enveloppes

Pages 55 à 60 : Année 1894, les enveloppes à 25c

Page 61 : Année 1900, le tirage spécial sur bristol

Pages 62 à 77 : Année 1901, les différentes cartes postales, cartes-lettres et enveloppes

Page 78 : Année 1901, la surcharge « ULTRAMAR »

Page 79 : Année 1908, l'enveloppe à 10c

Page 80 : Année 1911, la carte-lettre à 10c



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I will have a stand at Chicagopex 2010. While I always have a stock of interesting France and Colonies postal history, if FCPS members will email me with their particular interests well in advance, I will try to have some special items available. Don't hesitate to contact me at any time to see if I may have items that will enhance your collection.

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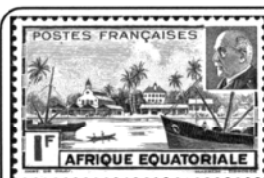
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1941 Petain Issue Complete NH set 48 stamps from 24 Colonies \$37

1941-5 Cross of Lorraine (Scott Type CD87) The complete Set of 71 stamps all Mint NH \$74

1944 Petain Surcharges (Semipostals) Complete set of 48 stamps from 24 Colonies all Mint NH \$40

1945 Felix Eboue Type CD91 Complete NH set 26 stamps \$14

1946 Victory Type CD92 Set of 15 Mint NH \$12

1946 Chad to Rhine Types CD93-8 Complete set of 90 stamps from 15 Colonies all Mint NH \$120

1950 Tropical Medicine Type CD100 Complete NH set of 10 \$55

1952 Military Medal Type CD 101 Complete NH set of 12 \$96

1954 Liberation Type CD102 Complete set all VF NH from 12 different French Colonies \$105

French Colony 24 page Price List. Free upon request.

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