



# FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

January 2011  
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*Extensive Coverage of the Show in this Issue*



***So Who Was  
Mr. Kidder?***  
*See page 3.*



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**Your brain power is  
 needed to keep our  
 journal fresh.**

**Please consider making a  
 contribution!**

# So Who Was Mr. Kidder ?

Ashley Lawrence (FCPS 3107)

*Mr. Lawrence, one of our long-time members from the U.K. has provided this fascinating glimpse into an interesting period of time in France. As he notes, this research was encouraged by, and is similar to, that which was contributed to these pages for many years by the late Ernst Cohn.*

The late, great Ernst M. Cohn encouraged my research into the correspondence which passed between William James Brown and his wife Margaret Binfield Brown (Fig. 1) during the Siege of Paris of 1870-71. I believe Ernst would have enjoyed this Amazing Wonder story. It expands upon and updates my earlier version that appeared in our sister-Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society (GB) in September 2009.



Figure 1. Mr. and Mrs. Brown

## Mr. Brown's letter

William James Brown ran a men's outfitting business called *The British Warehouse* in Paris during the Siege, while his French partner M. Jourdain served with the National Guard. After the Prussian armies surrounded Paris on 19 September 1870, Mr. Brown attempted by all available means to send messages to his wife who, together with their two young daughters, was sheltering with relatives in England. To this end he entrusted several messages to contacts at the British Embassy. Following the successful departure of the balloons *Le Neptune* and *La Ville de Florence*, he took advan-

tage of the world's first organized airmail service and sent several letters to Mrs. Brown *Par Ballon Monté*.

For a long time I was puzzled by one of Mr. Brown's letters. Unlike the letters sent by balloon, which had clearly identifiable postal markings, or the messages that stated that they had been delivered at the Embassy, this particular letter was something of a mystery.

The letter, the beginning of which is shown in Fig. 2, written on his customary blue notepaper, and addressed to "My dear Wife", was headed "Paris Oct. 26 / 70". It commenced with these words : "I avail myself of the kindness of a gentleman (Mr. Kidder) who is leaving Paris, to write you a few lines knowing how anxious you must be."

So who was Mr. Kidder? How was he able to leave Paris when all her inhabitants were besieged by German armies, and encircled by a ring of fire and steel?

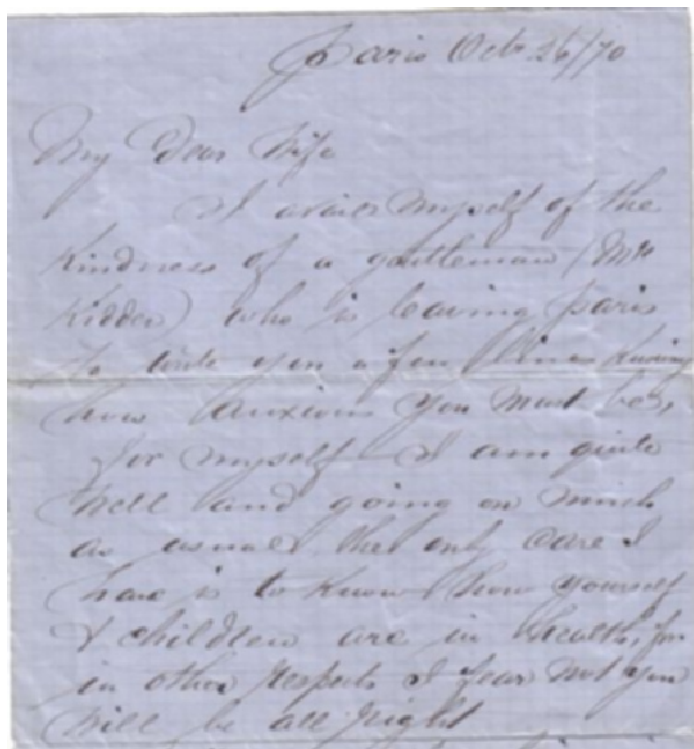


Figure 2. Illustration of the commencement of the letter.

## Enter Minister Washburne

The date of Mr. Brown's letter, 26 October, gave the first clue.

Washburne, the U.S. Minister Plenipotentiary of the American Legation in Paris describes his efforts to secure the release of American citizens and various other foreigners from Paris.<sup>3</sup> These included the Papal Nuncio Monsignor Chigi, Russian nationals and diplomats from Portugal, Columbia and Hawaii. The task had caused him a great deal of trouble. He had held meetings with the Governor of Paris General Trochu, and with Jules Favre, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and had corresponded with the Prussian Chancellor. Count Bismarck wrote to Mr. Washburne from Versailles on 19 October 1870 :

*Sir : I had the honour to receive your letter, dated the 17th instant, concerning the withdrawal of the American citizens from Paris. In answer, I beg to say that your countrymen will be permitted to pass through our lines, if provided with passports delivered by you, and stating that they are citizens of the United States. The departure should be taken by the Porte de Creteil. Recent experiences, and a decision adopted, in consequence, by our military authorities, makes it necessary that all persons leaving Paris for the purpose of passing through our lines should be earnestly warned that they are not allowed to carry any parcels, letters or communications whatsoever besides those to be delivered to our outposts, and that any contravention in this respect will unfailingly bring down upon them the full rigour of martial law. I beg you will be good enough to have it stated on the passports that the bearer has been warned accordingly.*

It had been agreed by all parties that foreign nationals who were issued with an appropriate *Laissez-passer* by the American Legation would be permitted to pass through the French and German lines on 27 October.

Minister Washburne described what happened:

*It was a large cavalcade ; a line was formed which passed out of the city under military escort, and which proceeded to the Porte de Creteil. I sent an attaché of the legation to accompany this cavalcade, who made a full report to me of the proceedings and of the parties who went out at this time. There were forty-eight Americans, men, women and children,*



Figure 3: Illustration of the Americans leaving Paris.

*and nineteen carriages, and also a Russian convoy of seven carriages and twenty-one persons, having my passes. The passes were all closely examined before the persons holding them could pass the French lines.*

The illustration in Fig. 3 shows a sketch of the departure of the American residents that was sent from Paris by balloon post, and was published in *The Graphic* on 19 November 1870.

Elihu Benjamin Washburne, the senior Minister at the American Legation, was a brave diplomat, the only official representative of a major foreign government to remain in Paris throughout the Siege. The British Ambassador Lord Lyons and most other members of the *Corps Diplomatique* had fled to Tours early in September, following Emperor Napoleon's defeat and capitulation at Sedan. Minister Washburne agreed to represent and protect the interests of those German nationals and other foreigners who, for whatever reason, were obliged to remain in Paris, and he gained Chancellor Bismarck's gratitude for this service. The U.S.A. had also earned French goodwill by being the first foreign power to recognize the French Republic, just three days after

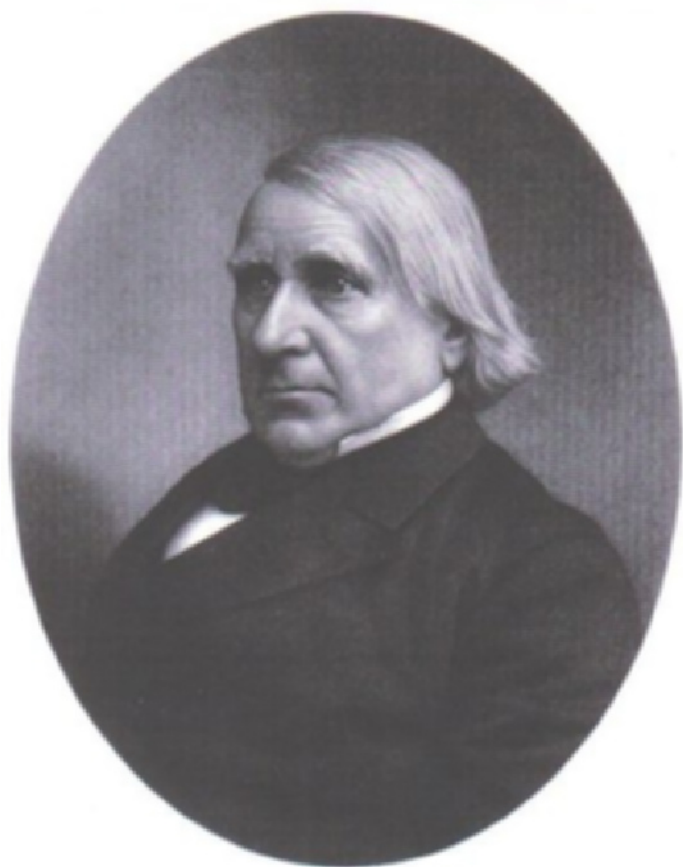


Figure 4. The American Minister Elihu Benjamin Washburne.

its declaration on 4 September 1870.

I traced Minister Washburne's papers to the National Archives and Records Administration in Maryland. The Archivist kindly sent me copies of the List of Americans who left Paris on 27 October 1870, together with the Report that was delivered to Minister Washburne by the official who accompanied the convoy. The list is headed *Légation des Etats-Unis d'Amérique à Paris*, and an extract from the list is illustrated in Fig. 5.

### "A gentleman (Mr. Kidder)..."

Mr. G.W. Kidder was one of 48 Americans who were permitted to leave Paris on 27 October, and his is the second name to appear on the List. His full name was George Wilson Kidder, and he was the kind gentleman to whom William Brown had entrusted his letter.

Thanks to the internet, I succeeded in making contact with the present-day George N. Kidder,

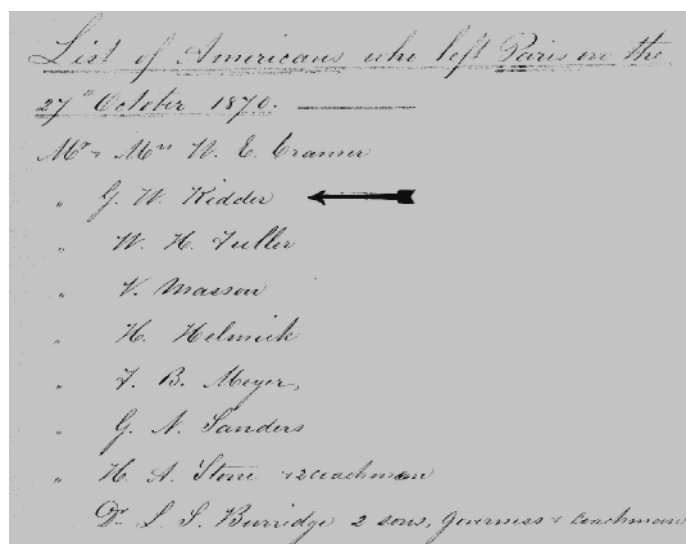


Figure 5: Extract from the List of Americans who left Paris on 27 October 1870.

who lives in Florida. George has studied the family's lengthy history in the United States, which dates from the arrival of one James Kidder in Massachusetts in 1648! George N. Kidder kindly put me in touch with the writer and biographer Susan Taylor Block who is writing a book about the Kidders of Wilmington. Thanks to these introductions, I have been able to obtain further details about George Wilson Kidder, William Brown's benefactor.

George Wilson Kidder was born in Wilmington, North Carolina in 1842, the second son of Edward Kidder, a prosperous lumber merchant. He briefly served as a Second Lieutenant in the Confederate Army in 1862-63. The short service may have been due to sickness or injury, or to family pressure: his father, who had been born in New Hampshire, was devoted to the Unionist cause. The South's record keeping was poor, and most of the records were destroyed. Apparently it was not unusual for family members to serve on different sides in the American Civil War.

The records do not show precisely why George Wilson Kidder was in France in 1870. It is unlikely that he was associated with the U.S. Legation in any military capacity, as he had not attended a military academy or achieved high rank. He was probably visiting Paris on business, promoting the export of lumber from the family sawmills, combined with sightseeing. He was an avid and frequent traveler, with

a background of education and wealth, able to enjoy the luxury of foreign travel without haste. He may have been one of the curious visitors who were attracted by the advertisements circulated by enterprising estate agents :

*Notice for the benefit of English gentlemen wishing to attend the Siege of Paris. Comfortable apartments, completely shell-proof ; rooms in the basement for impressionable persons.*

I should add that William Brown's business, *The British Warehouse*, was in the prosperous centre of Paris, at 14 rue Halévy, close to the Opéra Garnier and the Grand Hotel. Close by, at 11 rue Scribe, was an establishment with a similar name, *The American Warehouse* (today it is the American Express office), so it is not surprising that the two businessmen should have become acquainted.

### *The card from Mr. Kidder*

It was reassuring to come across a corroborative reference to Mr. Kidder in Cohn's work.<sup>4</sup> According to Cohn's research, George Wilson Kidder had sent a card to a relative in New York, E.H. Kidder, aboard the balloon *Céleste* on 29 September 1870, a month before he left Paris. Fig. 6 shows a photocopy of both sides of the card. The message written on the card was reported in the *Baltimore Sun* of Friday morning, 7 October, citing news from London of 6 October. The following is a transcription of the text:

*This leaves by balloon ! Well & in fine spirits. In case family are annoyed about me tell them where I am -- there's no danger. We have plenty of provisions. The terrible stories manufactured by Messrs. B [Bismarck] and King W. [William] regarding internal dissensions are utterly false -- the troops are in excellent condition -- I shall probably leave the city in a short time & reach some spot where I can communicate freely. Write me all home news and forward all letters to London. I trust the war will not continue very much longer & feel assured that if the enemy does not treat with our authorities very soon they may have great cause to regret it. Delay on their part will be their [illegible]. We hope for humanity's sake the awful slaughter will cease. Love to all of family & friends. George.*

Paris, Sept. 29, 1870

The card was carried by the *Céleste*, the fourth Siege balloon, which departed from the Vaugi-

rard Gasworks in Paris at 9.30 pm on 30 September, travelled 81 kilometers, and landed at 11.50 pm at St. Denis de Monroval (Dreux). The pilot was Gaston Tissandier and there were no passengers. The card is postmarked 5th collection on 29 September, and shows London arrival on 5 October. The card was franked with an Empire Lauré 30c stamp (Yvert 30), the correct rate to England. Had it been addressed to the USA, the rate would have been 70c (if sent via England) or 80c. The Paris postmarks, the single-ring date-stamp and the blank Paris Star, were used for mail to be sent abroad, *Paris Etranger*.

The card, marked *Par Ballon!*, was headed with the name and address of E.H. Kidder Esq, 139 Maiden Lane, New York City. Edward Hartwell Kidder (1840-1921) was the writer's elder brother. The card was addressed to E.H. Kidder in care of Messrs. Bowles Bros. & Co of 449, Strand, Charing Cross, London, England, with the request at the bottom "Please forward !" Messrs. Bowles Bros. & Co were American Bankers with branches in London and Paris.



Figure 6. Illustrations of the front and back of GWK's card.

### *The Liverpool connection*

I believe that after he left Paris, Mr. Kidder travelled to England, and spent some time in this country. He certainly visited Liverpool, as we shall see. It would be nice to imagine that while in Liverpool, Mr. Kidder delivered William Brown's letter of 26th October personally to Mrs. Brown. At that time she was living with her brother Captain Henry Newman and his family, at 5, Slater Street, Liverpool. However, this is wishful thinking on my part, and it is quite possible that Mr. Kidder did not meet Mrs. Brown but merely posted the letter to her after he left Paris. What is certain is that Mrs. Brown acknowledged receipt of the "few lines" from her husband in the letter that she wrote in reply on 16th November 1870. Her letter commenced "Yours of the 26th to hand". Mrs. Brown does not mention Mr. Kidder by name, and there is no further reference to him in any of the later correspondence.

According to the New York Passenger Lists of 1820-1957, George W. Kidder, an American citizen aged 29, sailed from Liverpool aboard the vessel "Java", travelled by way of Queenstown in Ireland and arrived in New York on 14th December 1871. The later family history relates that he married Florence Hill of North Carolina in 1877, they resided in a fine stone town house at 101, South Third Street, Wilmington N.C. and were prominent members of Wilmington society. The following year, while touring Europe, the couple visited Maresfield near East Grinstead in Sussex, the ancestral home of the Wilmington Kidders. Mr. Kidder, see in Fig. 7, died in 1915, survived by four children.

### *The British experience*

Mr. Kidder was fortunate to be an American citizen, and not a British subject, when he departed from Paris. A party of Englishmen had also expected to leave Paris on 27 October. To their chagrin, when they reached the outposts and the German lines, they were turned back on the grounds that their permits had not yet received clearance from the Prussian Headquarters at Versailles ! Their predicament was amusingly described by Labouchere:<sup>6</sup>

*At an early hour yesterday morning, about 100 English congregated at the gate of Charenton*



*Figure 7 : Photograph of George Wilson Kidder.  
Courtesy of Margaret Moore Perdew*

*en route for London. There were with them about 60 Americans, and 20 Russians, who also were going to leave us. Imagine the indignation of these "Cives Romani" when they were informed that, while the Russians and the Americans would be allowed to pass the Prussian outposts, owing to the list of the English wishing to go not having reached Count Bismarck in time, they would have to put off their journey to another day. The guard had literally to be turned out to prevent them from endeavouring to force their way through the whole German army.*

*I spoke this morning to an English butler who had made one of the party. This worthy man evidently was of opinion that the end of the world is near at hand, when a butler, and a most respectable person, is treated in this manner. "Pray, sir, may I ask," he said, with bitter scorn, "whether Her Majesty is still on*

*the throne in England?" I replied, "I believed that she was." "Then," he went on, "has this Count Bismarck, as they call him, driven the British nobles out of the House of Lords? Nothing which this feller does would surprise me now." Butler, Chargé d'Affaires, and the other Cives are, I understand, to make another start, as soon as the "feller" condescends to answer a letter which has been forwarded to him, asking him to fix a day for their departure.*

Fortunately, the indignant British subjects were permitted to leave a fortnight later, on 8th November, accompanied by a junior representative from the British Embassy.

Unlike some of his compatriots, William Brown remained in Paris and survived the Siege. I hope to recount more about his adventures in later articles. In the meantime I hope this account shows the fun which one can experience from research of this nature, as well as the surprising results and unexpected friendships which can develop from the study of postal history.

### **Acknowledgement**

I am most grateful to the members of the Kidder Family for providing copy documents and information to assist my research. My particular thanks are due to Mrs. Margaret Moore Perdew, the granddaughter of George Wilson Kidder, for allowing me to show this photograph.

### **Source Material and References**

1. William James Brown correspondence, 1870-71, and my thanks for the kind assistance given by his great-grandson Peter and the Brown family.
2. Information about the Kidder Family and copy documents kindly provided by George N. Kidder, by Mrs. Margaret Moore Perdew and by Susan Taylor Block, the author of *The Kidders of Wilmington*.
3. Washburne, E.B., *Recollections of a Minister to France, 1869-1877*, Sampson Low, Marston, Searle, and Rivington of London, England, two volumes, 1887.
4. Brown, G.L., Cohn, E.M. and Walske, S.C. *New Studies of the Transport of Mails in Wartime France 1870-71*, The France and Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc., New York, 1986.
5. Cohn, E.M. *Ordinary Mail by Diplomatic Means during the Siege of Paris 1870-71*, James Bendon Limited, Limassol, Cyprus, 1995.
6. Labouchere, H. *Diary of the Besieged Resident in Paris*, Macmillan and Co., London, 1872.

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## **Member to Member**

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I'm getting ready to dispose of a run of Baudot auction catalogues, richly illustrated, most with prices realized, from No. 174 of Apr 1996 thru No. 204 Nov 2009, plus the Dubus collection catalogue of Dec 1998 and the 50th Anniversary Catalogue of April 1996. I wondered if anyone (willing to pay shipping) would have any interest in them? Contact:

**Bob Kinsley**

kinsley@owt.com

## **An Humble Apology**

The Editor must apologize for a bit of sloppiness in the last issue. The photo on the cover of your *FCP* is of the Collectors Club of **New York**, **not** the Collectors Club of **Chicago**.

These two venerable club houses are the best of their breed in the United States as far as your editor knows, and it is a privilege to visit both wonderful venues, as well as an honor to speak to their memberships.

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## **Membership Notices**

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### **NEW MEMBERS**

3429 Schroeder, Mark, De Pere, WI

### **ADDRESS CHANGES**

3356 Barna, Carl, Emmaus, PA  
 3357 Braun, Dr. F. Carl, Miami, FL  
 2908 Brown, Gary H., Santa Barbara, CA

### **RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED**

3375 Maybury, James Peter

***Put March 2012 on your  
calendar now!  
We all know how fast 15  
months goes by.***

# Fundamentals of 'Recouvrements'

Robert Abensur (FCPS 3201) and David L. Herendeen (FCPS 2532)

At our exhibition in Chicago, Robert Abensur pointed out to me that a form that I was showing in my exhibit, which I called a Parcel Post Receipt was, in fact, a form used by the 'recouvrement' service of the Direction des Postes et des Télégraphes (PTT) first in France, and then later between France and some colonies, and within some colonies. Robert, who studied this subject for many years, presents the basic concepts behind what was a very useful service starting in the late 1800s using several items from my collection.

The postal *recouvrement* service began in France on 15 June 1879. Later, it was extended to some colonies and foreign countries. This service allowed any person to go to the post office, present commercial financial documents (e.g. bills of trade, promissory notes, drafts, etc.) to someone and request that the post office collect the amount due. Using the post office for this purpose addressed two goals: the safe payment of money in areas where banks were not operating, and additional revenue for the PTT. Prior to 1 April 1892, any uncollected bills resulted in a loss of revenue to the post office. At that time, new procedures began for charging a fee for unpaid bills. This is the situation described in the remainder of this article.

The mechanics of this procedure was for the post office to fill out a special form that summarized all of the bills presented for a particular patron. The actual invoices were then attached to the form and enclosed in a registered envelope (Number 1488) sent to the post office for collection of the debts. When the *facteur*, or postman, collected the amount due, in cash, a postal money order would be created by the post office to pay the sender. The fee for the



Figure 2. Return envelope for unpaid invoices. Note 20c in postage due for the one unpaid bill, the 1 January 1917 rate.

money order is deducted from the amount sent to the payee. Copies of both sides of the form, *Bordereau* 1485, are shown in Fig. 1a and 1b. Form 1485, the invoices and postal money order were then placed in an official envelope, Number 1494, which was registered and sent to the payee. An example is shown in Fig. 2. If no bills were paid, the *recouvrement* fee was indicated by the postage due attached to the envelope.

The various lines on Form 1485, as seen in Fig. 1, are:

- ♦ *Droit de timbre*: Revenue stamps (only for bills from Monaco or the Levant)
- ♦ *Rémuneration de receveur*: Payment to the postmaster.
- ♦ *Rémuneration des facteurs*: Payment to the postman.

Protectorat Français  
Gouvernement Tunisien  
Direction de l'Office  
des  
Postes & des Télégraphes

- 1 -

N° 1485

BORDEREAU des valeurs à recouvrer envoyées le 29 Mars 1917  
par M. Lang, Expus  
demeurant à Ennis  
auquel devra être adressé, après recouvrement un  
mandat payable au bureau d

NOMS DES DÉBITEURS	ADRESSES (Rue, Boulevard, etc., et numéro)	MONTANT de chaque valeur
1 <u>Jean Salgon</u> <u>Bar St Jean</u>	<u>11 rue d'Espagne</u> <u>Ennis</u>	<u>20 -</u>
2 <u>Portier, Expus</u> <u>Phyloréique</u>	<u>12 rue d'El Kacem</u> <u>che Ennis</u>	<u>15 -</u>
3 <u>Remis, Chef de dépôt</u> <u>Ch. des Diamants</u>	<u>Bar Sadoun</u> <u>Ennis</u>	<u>11 -</u>
4 <u>le même</u>	<u>do</u>	<u>10 -</u>
TOTAL.....		<u>56 -</u>

Tunis.- Imp. de l'Association Ouvrière  
1905

Page 1 of Form 1485 of Tunisia, dated 29 March 1917. Provides a list of bills to be paid to a Mr. Lang. It shows that four invoices or bills have been presented to the PTT for collection. The names, addresses and amounts due by each debtor are shown on the form. The total due was 56Fr.

- 2 -

## RECOMMANDATIONS ESSENTIELLES

### AUX RECEVEURS DES POSTES

Il est expressément recommandé aux agents de ne pas faire présenter les valeurs payables à date fixe avant le jour même de l'échéance, sauf quand le jour d'échéance tombe un dimanche ou un jour de fête légale.

Les valeurs payables à vue, qui parviennent dans un bureau la veille au soir ou le matin d'un dimanche ou d'un jour de fête légale, doivent être présentées à l'encaissement le lundi seulement ou le lendemain du jour férié.

## RÉSULTAT DES OPÉRATIONS

auxquelles a donné lieu la mise en recouvrement  
des valeurs

(Nombres) des valeurs jointes au bordereau qui ont été recouvrées. Le montant de ces valeurs est représenté par le mandat de poste ci-inclus.

(Somme) Les \_\_\_\_\_ valeurs ci-incluses n'ont pu être recouvrées.

	TIMBRE A DATE
Droit de timbre (1).....	20
Rémunération de receveur (2).....	40
Rémunération des facteurs (2).....	85
Montant perçu sur la taxe due pour les valeurs non recouvrées (3).....	24.05
Mandat .....	56
Total égal au montant des _____ valeurs recouvrées.....	56 =
MONTANT des _____ valeurs non recouvrées.....	21 =
TOTAL.....	56 =

Montant des taxes de valeurs non recouvrées restant dû par le déposant.....

(1) Valeurs originaires de la principauté de Monaco et du Levant ou recouvrables dans la principauté de Monaco.  
(2) 5 centimes par 20 francs ou fraction de 20 francs avec maximum de 25 centimes.  
(3) 10 centimes par valeur impayée, à prélever sur le montant des valeurs recouvrées, après déduction des remises aux agents.  
(4) Droit ordinaire des mandats.

Figure 1b. Page 2 of Form 1485 of Tunisia, dated 29 March 1917. Provides an accounting of the actions taken by the PTT:

20c-: payment to the postman and the postmaster (of Tunis post office)

40c-: fee charged for the two unpaid bills evidenced by the two attached postage due stamps. Two fees of 20 c according 1.1.1917 rate.

35c-: fee for the postal money order

34.05-Amount remitted to the payee after deduction of expenses

35.00 for two paid bills

21.00 for two unpaid bills

56.00 reconciliation of total from page 1

Note that the amounts do not always appear on the correct line of the form.



France, 1908



Algeria, 1926



Figure 3. Examples of special stamps issued to collect fees for unpaid bills. Note that the appropriate law is noted on the stamps.

- ♦ *Droit proportionnel*: Fee for the creation of postal money orders.
- ♦ *Mandat*: amount of the postal money order.
- ♦ *Montant perçu sur la taxe due pour les valeurs non recouvrées*: Fee for the unpaid bills created by the law of 1892. This fee was 10c per unpaid bill from 1 April 1892 to 31 December 1916. It then began increasing, reaching 20c on 1 January 1917, 30c on 1 April 1920, and so on. See Ref. 2 for details.
- ♦ *Total égal au montant des valeurs recouvrées*: The number and value of bills that were paid.
- ♦ *Montant des valeurs non recouvrées*: The number and value of bills not paid.

### The Recouvrement Stamps

As seen, initially postage due stamps were used to evidence fee collection. France introduced special stamps for the purpose of collecting the fees for

unpaid bills 1 October 1908. These were in use until 1 December 1935 at which time the regulations allowed either regular postage stamps or, most often, postage due stamps to be used for the purpose. A few other countries also used such adhesives including Andorra (1935), Algeria (1926) and Monaco (1910). The French stamps are interesting in that they even incorporate the specific *Loi de Finances* which created this fee as part of the design. For the most part, French areas without special stamps used postage due stamps for this purpose.

### The Madagascar Item

The item shown in the Herendeen exhibit is illustrated in Fig. 4. It was identified, incorrectly, as a parcel post receipt. Discussions with other FCPS members indicated that there is considerable confusion among collectors as to the *recouvrements* procedures outline above. We now know that the item in Fig. 4 is, in fact, the bottom half of Form 1485. It indicates that the total amount of the bills to be paid was 45 Fr. The reverse, while truncated, shows a listing of seven bills each of 3 Fr. It is possible that there were 15 such 3 Fr bills. Apparently



Figure 4. Bottom portion of Form 1485 showing 1.10Fr fee for 11 unpaid bills.

11 of these were not paid, because a fee of 1.10 Fr was assessed. As noted earlier, the 10c per bill fee was in effect until 31 December 1916. This fee is paid by a combination of the second general issue colonial postage due stamps (the 30c values) and the first issue (Queen's Palace) dues of Madagascar (the 10c values). The *recouvrement* system had been extended to Madagascar in 1908, and the colony never introduced any special *recouvrement* stamps.

### ***What are these Stamps?***

All of the major catalogues list the *recouvrement* stamps, such as those shown in Fig. 3, as postage due stamps. Is this true? Possibly not in a restricted technical sense. The fees being collected are for a specific service and serve a revenue, rather than postal, purpose. However, since the fee was charged by the PTT for a specific service of the PTT, the *recouvrement* stamps are legitimately listed with postage stamps.

### ***References***

1. Alexandre, J.P., C. Barbey, J.-F. Brun and R. Joany, *Les Tarifs postaux Français 1627-1969*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Brun & Fils, Paris, 1989.
2. Richardson, D. J., *Tables of French Postal Rates (1849 to Date)*, FCPSGB Brochure 7, third edition 2006.

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## **We Get Letters**

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I would like to offer a comment on Steve Tucker's cover described in the FCP, Whole No. 302, p. 111. The marking in the upper left corner is short for (pardon my bad spelling) *Affranchissement par l'expéditeur*. Postal clerks applied this note to overfranked envelopes because postal inspectors would check rates and punish clerks who overcharged postal patrons. This marking is often an indication that the cover was overfranked.

The rest is a real mess. I don't have any good ideas.

***Ken Nilsestuen (FCPS 1990)***

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Un grand merci pour votre accueil à tous qui était très chaleureux. Nous garderons un très bon souvenir de cette exposition.

Les collections françaises étaient de très bon niveau. Bravo à tous

Avec mes amitiés, et à bientôt

***Robert Abensur (FCPS 3201)***

*We thank M. Abensur, as well as our other visitors from France, for their attendance and for presenting talks that provided new information for us all. We hope this leads to future interchanges of this kind.*

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This show [CHICAGOPEX2010] will definitely be hard to improve. Actually, I think we set a new standard for the Society. I never attended anything like this.

***Ed Grabowski (FCPS 1469)***

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The FCPS meetings in Chicago were a great inspiration to me as well as a terrific learning experience. I used to consider myself as an intermediate level collector of France and Colonies. Now I think I'm up to "intermediate+". (Whatever that means).

Thanks to all the presenters, those who provided comments and enlargements, and particularly to you and Ken for all the work putting it together.

***Ben Bump (FCPS 2482)***

*It was a real pleasure to meet Ben and his lovely wife. This is the first time he has attended one of our exhibitions, but I don't think it will be his last. See page 28 for an excellent contribution that Ben has already made to the FCP.*

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I would like to share my very positive experiences at the France and Colonies Philatelic Society meeting at CHICAGOPEX in November with our membership. This was the first FCPS meeting I have attended. It will not be the last. The content of the presentations had a broad appeal to students of French and French Colo-

*Continued to Page 27*

# From Nowhere to Nowhere

## Some New Contributions

Ed Grabowski (FCPS 1469)

Recently the *FCP* has featured covers going from unusual small places to equally unusual small places, often with additional stories to tell. Our Editor has noted that these short articles are very popular with the readership, and he has encouraged additional examples.

Among the purchases I made from David Wrigley at the Chicago Show are two covers that I think fall nicely into this category. The first, shown in Fig. 1, is a military franchise letter from the small costal village of Whydah (Benin/Dahomey) resulting from the Second Dahomey War and pacification of 1892 – 1899. This campaign is nicely summarized by Waugh and Luft on page 57 of their publication: *A Chronology of French Military Campaigns and Expeditions with Their Postal Markings* published by the FCPS and the War Cover Club in 1984. Whydah was taken by the French in February 1893 and this franchise letter was posted from that village on November 7th of the same year. The letter



Figure 1. Military franchise letter from Whydah to Papeete, Tahiti.



Figure 2. Reverse of Whydah to Papeete letter.

transited via Cotonou on 9 November (Kotonou spelling – see reverse in Fig. 2), French Packet Line L on 14 November, and Paris on 8 December. It was posted to and arrived in Papeete on 19 January 1894 after a journey of more than two months. It bears a standard sender's endorsement on the front, and the commander's endorsement and signature on the reverse. Franchise mail from Whydah is considered rare; an example to Tahiti has to be exceptional.

The second letter is a government franchise letter from Grand Comoro which required treatment similar to military franchise letters (Fig. 3). It bears a sender's Service manuscript endorsement at the top, and is validated by a strike of the government seal of the ADMINISTRATION DE LA GRAND COMORE on the front and back, and an endorsement and signature of the *Receveur de la Poste* of Grand Comoro, who was the sender. It was posted from Grand Comoro on 24 May 1900, transited via the Reunion-Marseille Line U Packet on 30 May, and via



Figure 3.

Majunga on June 1st, and arrived at Zanzibar on June 26th. It is hard to tell which of these two letters represents the more unusual origin-destination combination: Whydah to Papeete or Grand Comoro to Zanzibar? Possibly the former does.

However, the Zanzibar letter has a feature which is most unusual. The addressee, the *Receveur de la Poste* of Zanzibar, apparently had a side job in 1900 – he made military uniforms. Enclosed in the envelope from Grand Comoro, and shown in Fig. 4, is the original letter requesting the manufacture of a military jacket, and an order form wherein the sender has provided all of the requisite measurements for a suitably fashionable example.

Figure 4. Order for uniform found in letter shown in Fig. 3.

## New Membership Levels Created

As noted in the Secretary's minutes of the annual meeting, the directors have approved three new membership levels intended to allow members to be recognized for specific levels of support. The three levels are:

- ◆ Contributor ( Membership + up to \$50)
- ◆ Sustainer (Membership + \$50-100)
- ◆ Patron (Membership plus \$100 or more)

To launch these new levels, three members became patrons at the Chicago meeting. They are **Eliot Landau** (\$200), **Thomas Broadhead** (\$200), and **Dave Herendeen** (\$200).

# Postal History Challenges

Peter R. A. Kelly (FCPS 3064)

One of our members, Peter Kelly of the U.K., an expert in postal history matters suggests an alternative to the analysis presented in my note in the July 2010 issue of the FCP.<sup>1</sup> Peter's note shows how much work must often go into understanding the routing of even a single colonial cover, and lays down a challenge for me to perhaps answer some of the remaining questions.

As a keen student and collector of the postal history of the island of Réunion I was very interested in the article by David Herendeen "Amazing originations and destinations – From Réunion to Tahiti."<sup>1</sup>

Any mail from Réunion to Tahiti is extremely scarce and the unfortunate typo in the description of Fig. 1 of Ref. 1 needs to be changed to reflect this. This cover is reproduced as my Fig. 1 for easier reference. [I guess. A very **usual** cover? What happened to the 'un' in 'unusual'? Ed.] Working out the routes taken by mail to unusual destinations is never easy and is particularly difficult when there is a lack of transit marks on the cover.

Then along came Ed Grabowski and produced (yet another) of the gems from his collection. This time a letter six years later but in the opposite direction. This quite superb letter has the transit marks of Auckland, Colombo and Mauritius so its route is quite clear. Ed's letter also took about the same time to make the journey.

On the basis of this it was easy to make the assumption that David's letter had travelled to Tahiti by the eastern route, the reverse of that taken by Ed's.

In arriving at this conclusion it seems to me that insufficient attention has been given to the two clues on David's letter from Réunion.

Referring to Fig. 1, first of all, let us examine the departure of the letter from Réunion. It is postmarked St Denis / Réunion on 15.12.1897 and was received on board the *Messageries*



that date, addressed to France which was scheduled to arrive at Marseille on 14.1.1898. (The receipt date on the back of my letter is not very clear and only shows month and year).

This would give the Fig. 1 letter a further 43 days to reach Tahiti but I am not qualified to comment on whether or not this is feasible.

The possibility does exist of the letter having been off-loaded en route but the effect of this would be to add to the journey time and does not look very likely. The route taken by *Pei Ho* on the second variation of Line U (1896 onwards) took it via Madagascar and the east coast of Africa. This would give connections with Line V at Diego Suarez and Line T at Port Said.

The point also needs to be made that there was, contrary to what is stated in the article, very little direct shipping between Mauritius, Réunion and Australia. Both *Messageries Maritimes* and P&O tried, opening lines passing through Réunion and Mauritius but gave these up because of the low volume of goods picked up there and preferred to use the Aden, Colombo, Australia route. With the opening of the Suez canal the importance of Mauritius as a staging point between the Cape and India, Ceylon and the Far East declined considerably.

The final clue that does not appear to have been investigated is the arrival date at Tahiti. Surely a search of the local papers would give the arrival dates of ships at the port and this might provide a pointer to identifying the last leg of the journey?

It is letters like these that make postal history so interesting and hopefully the author can continue his research into the route taken by this letter.

### Reference

1. Herendeen, D.L., *Amazing originations and destinations – From Réunion to Tahiti*, FCP, No. 301, Vol 66, No 3, July 2010.

## WOW!!!

*David L. Herendeen, Editor*

As you can see from the coverage of our exhibition at CHICAGOPEX, our convention was a rousing success. The articles herein will describe the broad attendance, the great presentations, our distinguished visitors from France, and the rich social interactions has by all.

It will be very difficult to improve upon this exhibition, but we will continue trying. As you will read elsewhere, our next meeting will be held in Cleveland, at the Garfield-Perry show, in March 2012. It seems that we have an opportunity to reach more members in the east. We will see if this trend continues.

By 2012 I hope that we can get both new attendees and new exhibitors to share in the excitement of meeting other collectors with similar interest.

### *New Attendees this Year*

We were very pleased to welcome a number of first time attendees in Chicago. In addition to our guests from France, we had **Marty Bratzel** (long-time member and contributor, but the first chance many had to meet him), **Ben Bump** and his wife, **Ed Pieklo**, **Tom Marra** and **Gerald Schroedl**. Also, we had a nice visit from Director **Dr. Martin Stempien**. Not too bad at all.

### *What I Collect, and Why...*

FCPS member Ben Bump made an excellent suggestion at a meeting on Sunday morning at the show. He notes that his local group has talks based on *What I Collect and How I Do It*. This sounded like an excellent idea. Ben agreed to do a prepare an outline for such a column (see Page 28). I agreed to write the first one but ran out of space in this issue. A number of members have stepped forward to say they will also write about their collections beginning in the April 2011 issue.

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***Help Make the FCP More Vibrant***

***Write an article, describe a favorite cover, share your knowledge...***

# One Fantastic Exhibition!

Those of us attending the last *FCPS* annual meeting and exhibition in Denver thought that it would be hard to match the depth and quality of exhibits this year in Chicago. Well, we were proven wrong! As seen on the next page, our members fielded 19 French area exhibits (20 including **J.-J. Tiliard's** daughter **Livie-Laure**) which included 126 frames. Of these 20 exhibits, 18 received Gold medals. *Incroyable !*

There were a number of interesting facts. **Larry Gardner's** Morocco exhibit, **Norval Ras mussen's** Tunisia and **Ken Nilsestuen's** Algeria were shown in 30 consecutive frames. This is believed to be the first time in the U.S. that such an array of French north Africa has been shown together.

Additionally, Africa was well-represented by **Paul Larsen's** French Sudan and Niger, **Steve Tucker's** French Guinea, and **Ed Grabowski's** resplendent Madagascar group type postal history exhibit. We welcomed member and new exhibitor **Gerald Schroedl** with his one-framer of post-independence issues of the Federation of Mali. As a middle eastern entry, **Al Kugel**, who kept CHICAGOPEX running smoothly, showed an exhibit of French Levant between the world wars.

The new world also had great exhibits including **J.-J. Tiliard's** St. Pierre postal stationery and a one-framer of the *Montagne et Arbes* issue, his daughter's Marianne de Briat of St. Pierre, and two of **Jeff Ward's** exhibits, French Guiana and Inini Commemoratives and a one-framer of Cayenne Airmails.

**Dave Herendeen** showed his French colonial postage due exhibit that spans the entire world.

Our contingent of French exhibits was quite large. Included were **Tom Broadhead** showing both the 1925 Decorative Arts issue and his wonderful one-framer on Balloon Postcards. **Bob Kinsley** showed his postal history of the conquered lands by the Napoleonic Armies.

**Stan Luft** showed his Post Offices of the Annexed Paris Suburbs. **Eliot Landau** showed his continually updated postal history of the Ceres and Napoleon issues and also led a well-attended walk-through of his exhibit on Saturday afternoon. **Pat Moeser's** exhibit of the Airplane Flying over Marseille was shown and continues to improve as evidenced by her Gold medal.

As you will see on the following page, our members also captured three grand awards (see page 19) and numerous other special awards for their work.

One of the rare treats for our exhibitors was having our friends from France look at our exhibits and offer new information and suggestions for improvement. There is no question that the breadth and quality of our exhibits impressed them. Writing in the *La Lettre Mensuelle de l'Académie de Philatélie*, **Madame Abensur** reports:

*Deux collections d'Algérie et du Maroc, de dix cadres chacune, constituaient des ensembles véritablement remarquables. Edward Grabowski a obtenu "Or" pour sa collection sur le type Groupe de Madagascar et dépendances. Stanley Luft a obtenu "Vermeil" pour ses bureaux de poste de la partie de banlieue annexée à Paris avant les années 1880. Le grand prix a été décerné à David L. Herendeen pour un étonnant ensemble intitulé : "Évolution des timbres-taxi dans les zones d'expansion française".*

All in all, this was a tremendous showing for exhibits of the French area. I think that we are showing other collectors how interesting and challenging collecting these issues can be. Our guests from France were also impressed by the quality of our exhibits, an important validation of our approach to collecting the French area.

We hope that all members will consider joining us at our next exposition in Cleveland in March 2012. Great exhibits, great fun, great camaraderie! Put it on your calendar now. Better yet, consider contributing.

## AWARDS FOR FCPS MEMBERS AT CHICAGOPEX 2010

### MULTI-FRAME AWARDS

Tom Broadhead	GOLD	France: The 1925 Decorative Arts Exposition	APS 1900-1940 Award
Larry Gardner	GOLD	Morocco Foreign Post Offices and Agencies	
Ed Grabowski	GOLD	Postal History of the French Colonial Group Type: Use in Madagascar and Dependencies	FCPS Reserve Grand Prix Collectors Club of Chicago Award
Dave Herendeen	GOLD	The Evolution of Postage Due Stamps in the French Community	FCPS GRAND PRIX Chicagoex Grand Award
Bob Kinsley	GOLD	French Armies of the Napoleonic Era and Territories They Conquered	
Al Kugel	GOLD	The French in the Levant 1915-1944	
Eliot Landau	GOLD	Classic France: Postal History of Ceres and Napoleon Issues of 1849-1875	Postal History Society Award
Paul Larsen	GOLD	French Sudan and Niger	
Ken Nilsestuen	GOLD	Algerian Postal History to 1876	
Norval Rasmussen	GOLD	French Tunisia 1888-1956	
Jean-Jacques Tillard	GOLD	Les Entiers Postaux aux Types "Alphée Dubois" et "Groupe" à St-Pierre et Miquelon	UPSS Marcus White Award
Steve Tucker	GOLD	French Guinea	
Jeff Ward	GOLD	French Guiana and Inini Commemoratives	
Stan Luft	VERMEIL	Post Offices of the Annexed Paris Suburbs to the 1850s	

### ONE-FRAME AWARDS

Tom Broadhead	GOLD	Balloon Post Cards of the Franco-German War 1870-1871	
Patricia Moeser	GOLD	Airplane Flying over Marseille	
Jean-Jacques Tillard	GOLD	St-Pierre et Miquelon, le 20F "Montagne et Arbes" de 1947	Single Frame Grand Award
Livie-Laure Tillard	GOLD	La Marianne de Briat Surchargée St-Pierre et Miquelon	Herdenberg Award, Best Youth Exhibit AAPE Youth Championship Grand Glen Philatelic Club Jackson Youth Award
Jeff Ward	GOLD	The Cayenne Airmails	
Gerald Schroedl	SILVER	Federation du Mali 1959-1960	

# *Herendeen Takes FCPS Grand Prix and Chicagopex Grand Tillards win other show Grand Awards*

**E**volution of Postage Due in the French Community won the FCPS Grand Prix for 2010 and the Chicagopex Grand award. This is exhibitor **Dave Herendeen**'s third, and final, FCPS Grand Prix with this exhibit. The exhibit had previously won our award at NAPEX 2008 and Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition in 2002.

In a complete sweep of the Chicagopex Grand awards, member **Jean-Jacques Tillard**, of St. Pierre and Miquelon, exhibiting for the second time at our FCPS exhibition, won the Single Frame Grand Award for his *St-Pierre et Miquelon, le 20F "Montagne et Arbes" de 1947*. Then, to top it all off, JJ's daughter, **Livie-Laure**, won the Ralph S. and Betty Herdenberg Award for Best Youth Exhibit, the AAPE Youth Championship Award, and the Glen Philatelic Club Mike Jackson Youth award for the exhibit *La Marianne de Briat Surchargée St-Pierre et Miquelon*.



**Dave Herendeen** receiving Grand Award from David Wenzelman, Chicagopex awards chairman.

It was especially thrilling for attendees of the Awards Banquet to have a youth exhibitor present to receive awards in public. It was certainly an exciting moment for the 15 year old Livie-Laure.



**Jean-Jacques Tillard** receiving Best One Frame Exhibit Grand, and his daughter, **Livie-Laure**, receiving her Youth Grand Award.

present to receive awards in public. It was certainly an exciting moment for the 15 year old Livie-Laure.

All three winners are now qualified to compete in their respective Champion of Champions competitions. Good luck to all!



## ***Our FCPS Dinner at the Collectors Club of Chicago***

*Beautiful table set for our sell-out crowd of 44, filling the Collectors Club to its capacity. Kudos to our FCPS/CCC members and hosts Paul Larsen and Larry Gardner.*



*Left side, from head of table, Jeff Ward, Pat Moeser (mostly hidden), Stan Luft, Marty Bratzel and Steve Schumann (literature judge). Right side, Ken Nilsestuen, Wade Saadi (president of the APS), Eliot Landau, John Bloor, and finally, Steve Tucker.*

## *The Awards Presentation*



*Eliot Landau*



*Pat Moeser*



*Tom Broadhead*



*Norval Rasmussen*



*Al Kugel*



*"Our" judge, FCPS member Jamie Gough.*



*Steve Tucker*



*Ken Nilsestuen*



*Stan Luft*



*Jeff Ward*

# *Talks Prove Highly Entertaining... and Very Educational*

The first day of our meeting at CHICAGOPEX, Friday, 13 November, featured a complete day of presentations by FCPS members and our guests from France. After the more than 30 attendees introduced themselves, opening remarks were made by President **Ken Nilsestuen** and editor **Dave Herendeen**. Most of the talks presented are briefly described in below.

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## **Tom Broadhead**

### ***Postal Issues of the 1925 Paris Decorative Arts Exposition***

Tom gave a wonderful overview of these art deco issues of France. His presentation paralleled his previous contribution to the FCP (Whole No. 302, pp. 95-101).

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## **Ed Grabowski (Leader)**

### ***Collecting Colonies***

*What was visualized (by your editor) as a panel discussion was led by Ed Grabowski. He made a Power Point presentation that discussed his personal history collecting all of the colonies for a specific stamp design: the Group Type.*

From a personal perspective, I view the French Colonies in the traditional block form: The General Issues; the Provisionals; the Group Type and the Post Group Type Issues. Collectors have the option of collecting within these blocks or collecting a single colony across all of the blocks. John Levett of the UK received a Grand Prix d'Honneur for his traditional General Issues collection in the 1980's, and there have been numerous specialists who have won top awards with collections from a single colony during the past thirty years.

One major problem in forming a collection from a single colony through the modern issues is the tendency of an exhibit of such to appear to weaken in the last few frames. Regardless of the rarity of the modern material, it still lacks the aura of the more classical material, and



*Ed Grabowski in full gesticulation mode!*

judges tend to down rate it. I addressed this specific problem in my Guadeloupe Postal History exhibit by ending the exhibit's coverage with the Group Type issue, and ending the exhibit with a frame of postage due material. The Group Type material stood up well against the more classic material, and ending the exhibit with postage due material enabled me to put one of the strongest frames in the exhibit at the end of the exhibit.

A major colonies collection that I would like to see is an exhibit examining the postal history of the Provisional Issues. Except in a few special cases, the Provisional Issues do not receive their just due from exhibitors. I believe that an in-depth exhibit examining their use from all of the colonies, highlighting similarities and differences, could reach the highest levels .

My current passion is use of the Group Type issue from all of the colonies. In a few years, I hope to have seventy frames covering the use of this issue from every colonial entity. Three exhibits are complete, a fourth is in progress and four more are in the planning stages. Advantages in collecting the Group Type include not having to mortgage the house to buy sig-

nificant pieces, and the continued ability to come up with new material that has yet to be heralded in the literature.

Finally, the colonies offer a plethora of special smaller areas that lend themselves to the formation of exceptional collections. Some of my favorites include the use of the F.M. overprints from the colonies on military franchise mail, the use of due stamps as regular postage from Reunion, the RF overprints on US air mails, the colonial stampless covers prior to the General Issues, and on and on...



*All presentations were followed by lively question/answer sessions.*

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### **Mike Bass**

#### ***French Postal Services in Jerusalem 1852-1914***

**Mike Bass** collects and exhibits postal history of the foreign post offices in the Holyland. As a treat for us, he agreed to present his items from the French post office in Jerusalem.

He discussed the early use of the consular services (1852-1879) prior to the establishment of a true post office in 1900. This postal history was illustrated by many wonderful covers, both stampless and franked with French stamps, to show the rates, routes and markings that were used.

Mike noted that when the official post began in 1900, offices were not only in Jerusalem, but also in Caifa and Jaffa. At this time, the post used the stamps of French Levant which are identified by the cancellations on the covers. Many different rates were shown for letters and

postal cards, some of which were insufficiently paid resulting in the addition of postage due stamps. Mike concluded by noting that all of the French offices were closed on 30 September 1914, the eve of the beginning of World War I.

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### **Keynote Address**

#### **Jean Goanvic**

*of l'Académie de Philatélie*

#### ***The Vietminh postal service, 1945-1954***

The *Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh Hoi* (Viet-Minh for short) was created in South China in May 1941 by Ho Chi Minh. During the final period of the Japanese Governorate of Indochina, the Viet-Minh installed its own members into all administration offices and particularly in the postal system.

As soon as the Japanese surrendered, the Viet-Minh took over and several postal and propaganda marks appeared on the mail. These were all applied in the Vietnamese language along with the new service marks such as "return to sender," "franked by sender," and so on. Very soon after, new date stamps in the Vietnamese

language appeared. From December 1945 to December 1946, around sixty stamps issued during the war by the French administration were overprinted to show the name of the new regime and to collect money from philatelists. Most of those stamps are rare on cover at the proper rate (30cts ordinary and 90cts for registered).

After the attempt to overthrow the French troops in December 1946, the Ho Chi Minh government hid in the bush but extended its



control on the population and villages, and continued to develop its postal system. The fast increasing inflation was shown by the increasing rates of the ordinary covers. These were home-made, and they were used and re-used until they fell apart. Covers at different rates from 50 cents in mid-1947 to 1000 piasters in 1953 were shown. These are extremely rare and there are probably some intermediate rates that have not yet been seen.

From 1952, the official mail was franked by service stamps, but to avoid constantly reprinting them because of inflation, the face values were expressed in kilos of rice, the basis of the Vietnamese economy. Only the 0k600 is common on cover. In the South of Hue/Tourane (Danang), an area totally under the control of the Viet-Minh, was isolated from the North (Interzone 5) and had a large degree of autonomy. They issuing their own banknotes and stamps. These stamps are extremely difficult to find either used or on covers.

During that period as the postal service of the Vietminh was not recognized by the U.P.U., very few foreign mail is known, all going through the Chinese border.

After the Geneva agreements, the big cities in the North are progressively released to the "Democratic Republic of Vietnam" (DRV) which increases considerably the quantities of mail to be handled. The stock of stamps (Ho Chi Minh with map) being expressed in "old piasters" (before the devaluation of July 1953) are to be surcharged with the value in the new currency, hence different trials and errors. Last in February 1955, the DRV enters the UPU and foreign mail starts.

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### **Marty Bratzel**

#### ***Deconstructing the Catalogue The Wartime Revenue Stamps of Cameroun***

Marty began by noting that the wartime revenue stamps of Cameroun were prepared by overprinting postage stamps with Timbre Fiscal and a new value. Catalogues generally group the 50+ stamps together, without consideration as to when they were issued. He then presented his analysis to determine when each stamp was actually issued and he displayed



*Marty Bratzel at the Frames.*

the stamps organized into eight groups, with dates of issue ranging from mid-1940 to August 1945.

His display, mounted in frames, included copies of the official authorizations for preparation of the revenue stamps, plus examples of their proper use on documents and improper use as postage stamps.

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### **Brigitte Abensur**

*of l'Académie de Philatélie*

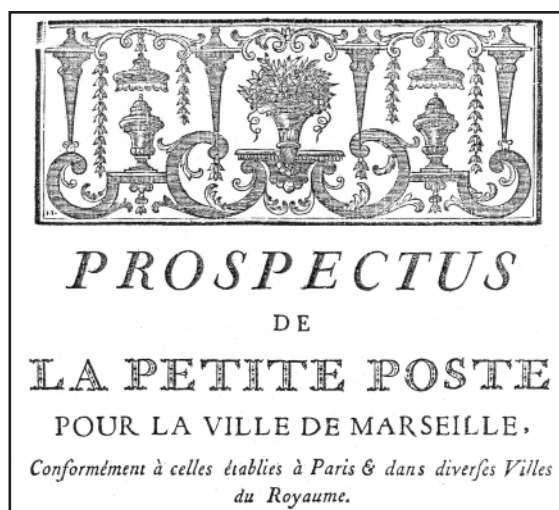
#### ***The 'Petite Poste' of Marseilles, 1781-1794***

**Brigitte Abensur** began by noting that the *Petite Posts* were autonomous postal establishments of the 18th century for assuring the collection and the delivery of letters from and to the same city and its suburb. She noted that while her talk was about Marseilles, *Petite Posts* functioned in nine different cities in France, the first of which opened in Paris in 1760.

The Administration of the Posts gave a contract for the *Petite Poste* of Marseilles to the partnership of Etienne de Lissal de Dammartin and Jean-Baptiste Vivant Ogier de la Cotterie, on 10 September 1781

The *Petite Poste* began serving Marseille from 28 November 1781 and service was extended to the suburbs by April 1782. The merger with the office of the *Grande Poste* of Marseille was made at the end of 1794.

Brigitte described the rate structure for these letters and then showed numerous beautiful



covers with many marks that showed details of the service including collection and delivery. These included marks identifying the office, the mailmen or the letter receiver (boîtiers) and also both the time of collection (levée) and day of the month (quantième)

While most letters were mailed within Marseille, others shown were from overseas. Such letters included the handwritten notation: *du dehors* (from the outside) from Tunis, Minorca and Turkey. Brigitte noted that all these letters are very scarce.

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### **Robert Abensur**

of l'Académie de Philatélie

#### **Taxed Letters from UGP countries to France, 1876-1879**

**Robert Abensur's** talk was about the convention of the General Postal Union (GPU), which was implemented on 1 July 1875 and ended 31 March 1879. This treaty resulted in some new and very interesting rules for mail handling. France joined the GPU on 1 July 1876, and Robert's study focused on unpaid letters and insufficiently prepaid letters sent from GPU countries to France during those four years. Their common characteristic is the handstamped **T** created by the GPU. For unpaid letters two rates were available: the first for letters from Europe, Turkey and Egypt and the second from overseas countries, 10 centimes per 15 g more expensive. In France, this two rates decreases on 1 May 1878.

The charge on insufficiently prepaid letters was calculated by the formula: rate for an unpaid

letter minus the value of postage affixed. This value is written in French centimes by the sending country. Several covers from different countries, including French Guyana, Argentina, St Thomas, Spain, Brazil and Russia were shown and explained. Official statistics of the French postal administration (for the years 1876 and 1877) show clearly the scarcity of both unpaid letters and of all letters originating from some of the GPU countries.



*Robert Abensur discussing postal rates.*

In addition, Robert was able to help several of our exhibiting members decipher the old manuscript *décime* postage due markings on early covers. This is an especially challenging area since many different currencies were often involved.

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### **Dave Herendeen**

#### **The New FCPS Web Site**

Dave spoke about the new web site that is being developed for FCPS by Philatelic Consultants. While this site will be modern and have many capabilities beyond the current web pages, the jewel of the project is the complete digitalization of the 70 years of the FCP.

When completed, early in 2011, the entire run of journals will be online and available to members. Moreover, an advanced search algorithm will allow rapid access to all articles by subject, author or key words. In literally seconds a member can determine how many references may exist for a specific research topic.

## President's Letter

Well, my friends, if you were unable to join us in Chicago in November, you missed a really good time. Friday was a full day of presentations that covered a truly wide variety of French collecting interests. It was fascinating, to say the least. I give special thanks to the **Robert and Brigitte Abensur** and **Jean Goanvic**, who all presented in English. We Americans got much more from their pretty good (or better) English than we would have if they had spoken their native French. We had an especially good time at the Collectors Club of Chicago on Friday night. It was an honor for our group to be invited, and we treated it as such. And say a congratulatory word to the exhibitors, who provided 18 exhibits and earned 17 gold medals. That is a really impressive showing. To top it off, **Dave Herendeen** won the Grand Award, making him eligible for the Champion of Champions in Columbus, Ohio, in August. I expect our editor has put lots more about our Chicago meetings in the rest of this journal. [*Indeed, see the many articles, Ed.*]

I extend a special thanks to my fellow officers and directors, almost all of whom were in Chicago. I know it takes commitment to make the trip, and I certainly hope all members in attendance appreciated the chance to meet our leadership group in person. **Kay Gaetjens** even traveled from Paris, although he didn't have the longest trip. The **Abensurs** live to the east of Paris, so I think they came the furthest.

To personalize the benefits of participating, I owe a great debt to **Dr. Robert Abensur**. He took the time to walk through my exhibit (as he did for several of us) and pointed out a number of places where I misinterpreted postal rates between Algeria (France) and other countries. I furiously wrote notes as we walked along, hoping I could transcribe the knowledge when I got back to Akron. He then asked for a scan of several pages, so when I returned home I sent scans of the entire exhibit to him (as well as to **M. Goanvic**). Robert then sent me an e-mail with even more information than he was able to offer as we walked the exhibit! I am getting ready to completely re-mount my

exhibit, incorporating all that knowledge. If I had not been in Chicago, I would not have learned what I did from Robert!

I also received several delightful scans of Algerian military markings from **M. Goanvic** as a result of sending my exhibit to him. He and I have both increased our knowledge of those markings in Algeria as a result of our exchanges. Have I convinced you to attend our next meeting?

While our business meeting on Saturday seemed long, we had a lot of important matters to discuss. So let me now turn to the future for a few minutes. First, in our dues notice there is a question about dues levels and electronic journals. While at the meeting about 2/3 of the attendees indicated their preference for lower dues and an electronic journal, I just stumbled into a survey by KPMG (Big 4 international accounting firm) that says about 86% of the 2,241 people they questioned prefer reading things "offline" (on paper). Let me say that the printing industry paid for the survey, so there may be some bias in how the questions were posed. We'll see what our members think.

We had an update on the electronic conversion of our past journals and new website, which should be ready soon.

We also discussed our future meetings. As of now, we are going to return to the Garfield-Perry March Party in 2012, then attend SANDICAL in January 2014, TEXPEX in 2015 (tentative – I am awaiting confirmation from them), and Milwaukee in Fall 2016. We will also have a table at the May-June 2016 international show in New York City if the cost is reasonable. Our success at these future meetings is dependent on **YOU!!!** We will be looking for presenters, exhibitors, judges, and most importantly, volunteers to help line up the programs. Dave can provide some help, but it takes time. He can break the tasks into several small pieces, so please, please, please offer your help.

I believe that the CHICAGOPEX show has put the FCPS on the philatelic map by making our existence and seriousness better understood by our fellow collectors in France. We hope this is only the first interchange with them.

*We Get Letters**Continued from Page 12*

nial philately. The willingness of all to comment on and offer suggestions to me concerning my exhibit was highly satisfying. The banquet was well planned from the transportation through the impeccable cuisine and friendly surroundings of the Collectors Club of Chicago's clubhouse.

I have participated in planning and executing society events on several levels. I know the challenges and frustrations intimately. This year's meeting at Chicago has set a standard that all future France and Colonies Philatelic Society members and officers will enjoy striving to deliver and enjoy.

I am once again excited about collecting stamps and postal history.

**Norval Rasmussen (FCPS 2487)**

Kudos of the highest order to all who planned and carried out the FCPS meeting at Chicago. Excellent *camaraderie*, informative seminars and, by my count, 130 frames of France and Colonies exhibits. The quality of the material in the frames was amazing and definitely showed when we walked away with nearly all the top awards at the banquet.

Can't wait for the next gathering!

**Steve Tucker (FCPS 3347)**

CHICAGOPEX was a terrific experience overall. It was great to touch bases with other France and Colonies specialists that I had met last year in Denver, and to make some new acquaintances as well.

The talks were excellent once again, as was our special dinner at the Collector's Club. Since I don't have the time or money to collect them all, it is always a pleasure to look at other France and Colonies exhibits (in this case more than 100 frames) and see what else exists in this fascinating area.

**Jeff Ward (FCPS 3142)**

It was for me a huge pleasure to attend the CHICAGOPEX exhibition and to meet you all!

I am certainly used to attending French philatelic events but much less American exhibitions like the one we had in Chicago. I liked to see how much you all are involved in the Society's activities; in many cases I had the opportunity to talk with you and exchange on our common hobby. Thank you for making this event such a success!

Please receive my wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!

**Kay Gaetjens (FCPS 2643)**

You're right that CHICAGOPEX will be a tough one to top after all the excellent coverage by all our guests and members. The dinner was excellent though a closer venue would have been good. The Abensurs were very helpful to me personally in deciphering some problems with South American French Pacific coastal mails.

The exhibits covered a broad range of French and Colonial philately and were virtually all gold medal level. The pleasure of being surrounded by so many collectors who share the same areas of interest, are very friendly and eager to share information and experiences by their talks and exhibits made this one of the most exciting and enjoyable conventions I've had the pleasure of attending in a long while

**Eliot Landau (FCPS 3010)**

## *Help Wanted*

Our last two annual meetings (RMSS 2009 and CHICAGOPEX 2010) have been incredible successes and learning experiences for our members. The organization of these events, handled by editor **Dave Herendeen**, requires a lot of attention to detail and coordination of activities, not unlike herding cats!

Dave is now involved in some activities that require more of his time. He has requested members interested in helping organize our meetings to contact him. Several members in Chicago have already volunteered.

# *What I Collect and How I Do It- an Introduction*

*Benjamin Bump (FCPS 2482)*

**A**t the wonderful *FCPS* meeting in Chicago, our editor noted that he had had a very positive response to the July issue of the *FCP* because it had many short articles that would cover a wide spectrum of member interests. I related to him something our local club has done to keep members interested. It is called *What I Collect and How I Do It*. The goal is to give other collectors ideas that they may apply to their own collecting interests and needs. I provided the editor with an outline for such an article. We have modified the plan from centering on a standup talk to being a one to three page article in the *FCP*.

## *Overview*

You prepare a short article (at least one page but not usually more than three pages.) You may illustrate items from your collection, but normally only if they are proving a point in your article. Any type of collateral material may be introduced that advances your story.

To get you started, here are some topics you might consider addressing. Don't feel you have to answer everything, or that you're limited to these topics.

## *What I collect*

Do you collect stamps, postal history and covers, cinderellas, other collateral material? Is your interest worldwide, or just France and Colonies? Do you limit your time period? Do you collect topicals? Mint or used, or both? Is "never-hinged" an issue for you? Why have you decided to collect this way?

At what age did you start collecting? Did someone guide or encourage you? How has your collecting changed over the years? What's your goal? Is it completeness, to exhibit, to learn more about something? Do you have other hobbies, and are they related to philately?

## *How I collect*

Do you collect according to the Scott catalog? Or other catalogs? Do you use printed album pages? Blank, homemade pages? Stockbooks, or other binders? Do you use hinges or mounts? Which kinds. Where do you buy paper, and what type. Do you use plastic page protectors?

## *Getting Material*

How do you get material? Auctions, approvals, favorite dealers, eBay, stamp shows? When you buy stamps, do you prefer individual items, large lots, or something else? Do you buy in France? other European countries?

Have you ever sold a collection or part of one? How, why, and to whom? How was the experience? Have you travelled because of your collecting? To countries you collect?, to APS headquarters, to big shows?

## *Research*

Do you perform research on your collection? Do you use library resources such as those found at the American Philatelic Research Library, the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library or the Collectors Club of New York. Do you know that major public libraries and the Library of Congress can provide a wealth of philatelic information? Are you aware of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum? Le Musée de la Poste in Paris? The French colonial archives in Aix-en-Provence? Do you research postal history including rates routes or markings? Do you speak or read French? Do you have the important French catalogs and references for your specialty?

## *Organized Philately*

Are you a member of the *FCPS*? For how long? Has it been worthwhile? Do you belong to any

other national or specialist groups? If so, which? Describe them, and how have they benefitted your collecting?

Have you attended any of the FCPS annual meetings? If so, did you find them educational and interesting? Did you meet interesting and helpful fellow collectors? Have you gained useful knowledge from the programs?

Are you an exhibitor? National? International? Are you a philatelic or literature judge? National? International? Do you like to see exhibits? If so, have they helped you in your collecting.

*The first of this series will appear in April. Please consider contributing to this new format to help our other members.*

## *Minutes of the Annual Meeting*

### *Chicago, 20 November 2010*

President **Ken Nilsestuen** called the meeting to order with twenty-three members in attendance. Editor **Dave Herendeen** assisted throughout the meeting.

The newly elected slate of officers and directors including, **Ken Nilsestuen**, **Norval Rasmussen**, **Jeff Ward**, **Ed Grabowski**, **Steve Tucker**, **Kay Gaetjens** and **Ralph DeBoard**, were introduced. **Joel Bromberg** was not able to attend the meeting.

The continued decline in membership was the first issue discussed. Dave Herendeen noted that of the forty five members who we were about to be dropped from the membership list because of non-payment of dues in 2009, a simple phone call effected dues payment from thirty of them. **Ralph DeBoard** will follow-up with a phone call or e-mail to members who have been dropped because of non-payment of dues during the last five years, to see if we can get any renewals.

The digitalization of the *France and Colonies Philatelist* and development of the new web site should be completed by the end of the year. Members will have access to the *FCP* through the web site. The general public will have access to a limited portion of the *FCP*, which should provide some incentive for people to join the Society.

The *FCP* will shortly be available in color online. The possibility of a special on-line membership category was discussed (The Society of Indochina Philatelists currently has a \$5 rate for this category of membership.), but no deci-

sions were reached. The possibility of printing the *FCP* in color was also discussed, but it was noted that production costs would increase significantly. The possibility of having the Denver Group handle production of the *FCP* will be investigated.

Editor Herendeen requested that all members consider contributing articles to the *FCP*. Short articles are particularly needed, as they highlight the breadth of collecting interests within the Society. Articles on unusual covers showing unusual origins-destinations, frankings, markings, etc. would be most suitable. Short articles in the *FCP* have been most favorably received by the membership.

The Vaurie Fund was used as the source of funds for the digitalization/web site project. New Vaurie Fund projects are needed. It was suggested that we consider publishing a new Glossary. Our old Glossary is still available and will be compared to that of the German Philatelic Society, which is considered a reference standard, before we pursue this project.

Society fund raising was discussed in detail, and it was moved, seconded and passed that we have three donor categories: Contributor (<\$50 + membership); Sustainer (\$50-\$100 + membership) and Patron (>\$100 + membership). Information of the fund raising categories will be included with the annual dues notices, and all contributions will be acknowledged in the *FCP* in a timely manner. To start off this aspect of fund raising with a bang, three new contributions in the Patron category

were announced and will be appropriately noted in the *FCP*.

Our participation in the Chicago 2010 show was considered an outstanding success on all accounts. Details on the show are reported elsewhere. Special accolades to Editor Herendeen for all of his efforts in making this so. Dave noted that we need an official Convention Manager, as the activities in setting up our conventions have become significant. Dave and Ken will work closely with this person to assure the continued success of these endeavors. They are clearly among the most important in putting the *FCPS* on the national and international maps in philately. If someone with the desire and talent for this position reads this, please contact Dave or Ken immediately.

Future conventions sites were discussed, and the following were agreed upon: 2012 – Cleveland; 2014 – San Diego; 2015 – Saint Louis; and 2016 – Milwaukee. For the New York International Show in 2016 we will attempt to have a Society Booth, and a meeting at which two talks will be presented. Also, a Society dinner at a local restaurant will be considered.

The presence of **Stan Luft** and **Martin Stempien** at the annual meeting was acknowledged, and their many contributions to making the Society a success over the years noted. **Ed Grabowski** closed the meeting with a short remembrance of our member **Lou Robbins** who died this August at the age of ninety nine years. Lou was a Grand Old Man of and a Legend in Philately, and his wisdom and stories will be missed by all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Edward Grabowski  
Recording Secretary

## ***CHICAGOPEX Slide Shows Available-FREE This Year***

***Many of the slide shows presented in Chicago, including those by Robert and Brigitte Abensur, Ed Grabowski, Mike Bass, Tom Broadhead, and Dave Herendeen are available on the internet. They may be downloaded free. Please contact the editor for details:***

***FCPEd@aol.com***

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## **Show Reports**

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### **BALPEX 2010**

Baltimore, MD, September 2010

Vermeil medals to **Larry Gardner** and **Steve Washburne**. A one-frame Gold to **Jay Carri-gan**. Member Paul Larsen was in the Court of Honor.

### **Omaha Stamp Show 2010**

Omaha, NE, September 2010

A Vermeil medal to **Steve Washburne**.

### **MILCOPEX 2010**

Milwaukee, WI, September 2010

Gold medal and Reserve Grand to **Eliot Landau**. Also, Gold medal to **Larry Gardner** and Vermeil to **Al Kugel**.

### **Southeastern Stamp Show 2010**

Atlanta, GA, September 2010

A Gold medal to **Roger Quinby** and a Vermeil to **Tom Broadhead** for his "France: Transatlantic Mail to the United States, 1926-1937."

### **SESCAL 2010**

Los Angeles, CA, October 2010

Gold medal to **Eliot Landau**. Also, Gold medal to **Larry Gardner** and Vermeil to **Al Kugel**.

### **INDYPEX 2010**

Indianapolis, IN, October 2010

Gold medal and Grand to **Al Kugel**. Also, Gold medal to **Roger Quinby** and Vermeil to **Mark Isaacs** for "Indochina Forerunners (1861-1880)." **Al Kugel** also had a one-frame Gold.

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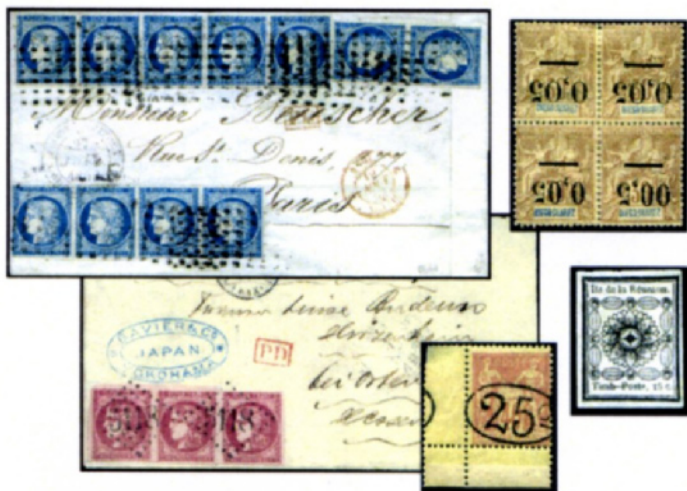
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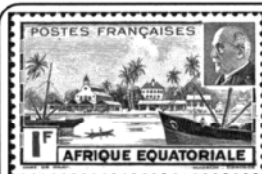
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**1944 Petain Surcharges** (Semipostals) Complete set of 48 stamps from 24 Colonies all Mint NH \$40

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

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