

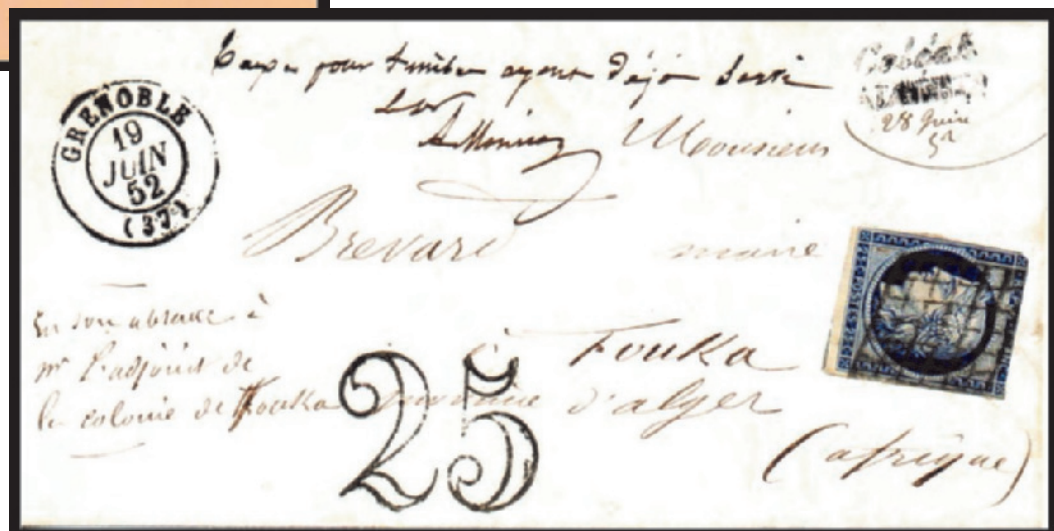


# FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

October 2011  
Whole No. 306 (Vol. 67, No. 4)

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French Guiana (see page 99)*

*15c Registration? (see page 114)*



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# Unraveling French Guiana's First Issue

Jeff Ward (FCPS 3142)

In 1886, French Guiana, like all French colonies, used French colonial general issues for postage stamps. This policy continued until 1892 when France decided that each colony should have its own unique stamps. Consequently, there would be no such thing as French Guiana stamps prior to 1892 except for the fact that the post offices there repeatedly exhausted existing supplies of certain denominations beginning in late 1886. In fact, on four separate occasions between late 1886 and early 1892, they ran out of at least one denomination.

## The First Provisionals

The first shortage occurred in December, 1886, when they ran out of 5c stamps. I have some limited rate information for this period indicating that, regardless of destination, the rate for a post card was 10c and a letter at the lowest weight step was 25c. According to the Dallay catalogue, the 5c rate was for local letters until 1892. Therefore it makes some sense that there was a shortage of these stamps since the amount of local mail was probably significant. The administration felt that 5c stamps were important enough that they did not want to wait for more to arrive from Paris. Supplies of stamps were sent by ship, and it took about two weeks to sail from France to French Guiana.

To provide the desired 5c stamps, the postal authorities decided to create their own. In doing so, they followed a practice that was already common throughout the world: they overprinted or "surcharged" stamps already on hand. They chose two different 2c stamps, shown in Fig. 1, to receive the overprint. Apparently, they already had enough of these stamps, used primarily for printed matter, that they could afford to convert some of them to 5c.

The selected 2c stamps belonged to both the previous and current French colonial general issues. The previous issue is called (in the US) *Peace and Commerce* and (in France) *Sage* after its designer. It is dark green in color and is im-



Figure 1. The underlying stamps.

perforate. Although this definitive series was superseded about five years earlier, the postal administration apparently still had plenty of the two centimes stamps remaining. The design of the then current definitive issue is called (in the US) *Commerce* or (in France) *Alphée Dubois* also after its designer. It is light brown in color and is perforated 14 x 13½.

## The Overprint

To change the denomination from 2c to 5c, the overprint was applied manually to each stamp one at a time using a *composteur*. As seen in Fig. 2, the overprint consists of three lines. The top line gives the date of the overprint as "Dec. 1886." The second is the name of the colony in abbreviated form: "GUY. FRANÇ." The third is the denomination of 5c expressed in francs. It appears as either "0 05 or "0f05 with the blank space or the "f" acting as a decimal point.

Although all overprints have this format, there are three distinct types that I call Types I, II, and III. They differ from each other in two ways. The first is the presence or absence of the letter "f" between the two zeros. Type I does

Déc. 1886.  
GUY. FRANÇ.  
0f 05

Figure 2. The general overprint format.



|               | TYPE I   | TYPE II   | TYPE III   |
|---------------|--|---|--|
| <b>SAGE</b>   | <br>1 | <br>2 | <br>3 |
| <b>DUBOIS</b> | <br>4 | <br>5 |  |

Figure 3. The three types of the five stamps of the first issue with the author's numbering.

not have the “f” and Types II and III do. The second is the vertical dimension of the overprint. Type I is the tallest of the three overprints. Type II is next while Type III has the smallest vertical dimension. The vertical differences primarily result from a greater squeezing together of the top two lines. The measurements of the overprints are given below.

With two different base stamps, and three overprint types, there are potentially six different stamps. But only five exist because Type III was never applied to the Dubois stamps. The three types are illustrated in Fig. 3. Throughout the rest of this article, I refer to these five stamps as Nos. 1 through 5 as given in Fig. 3.

Although the catalogues tend to emphasize the presence or absence of the “f,” the vertical dimension is the best way to identify the type. One problem with using the “f” is that it does not distinguish between Types II and III because both have it. Another is that the “f” often exists only as a fragment and is hard to distinguish from an ink splatter. The overprints were applied locally using primitive equipment even

by the standards of the day. Characters often exist only partially, as seen in Fig. 4a, and some stamps exhibit random ink splatters. Furthermore, used stamps sometimes have part of the cancellation overlaying the critical area where the “f” should be, making it hard to tell if there is an “f” there or not, as illustrated in Fig. 4b.

Identifying the type by measuring the vertical dimension is largely foolproof. Partial characters, ink splatters, and cancellations are not a



Figure 4. Difficulties distinguishing types.



problem because, in all cases I have seen, the overprint is entirely visible and easy to measure. Catalogs give the vertical dimensions as: Type I, 12.5 mm; Type II, 12 mm; and Type III, 10.5 mm. These are approximately correct. More precise measurements are: Type I, 12.71 mm; Type II, 12.23 mm; and Type III 10.28 mm. There are some slight differences in width, but they are not needed to identify the type.

### The Survey

When I began collecting these stamps in the late 1990s, two things surprised me regarding their treatment in the stamp catalogues. One was how much the listings varied from one catalogue to another. The other was the large disconnect between catalogue values and what I was seeing on the market. So, I decided to start a survey, or census, of these issues. I was already receiving catalogues from many auction houses on a regular basis. When I was finished with a catalogue, if any of the five stamps were for sale in that auction, I would cut out their illustrations and paste them in a notebook. It was important that the stamp be illustrated because it is very common for the same stamp to be offered multiple times by the same (or sometimes different) auction houses. Before including the stamp in my survey, I would make sure it was not a duplicate of an existing entry.

I began this process in 1999, and it continues today. To date (July 2011), I have recorded 277 examples of the five stamps. Much of the rest of this article compares what I found with the information presented in the following catalogs:<sup>1</sup> the French language catalogues Yvert & Tellier (hereinafter called Y&T), Ceres, Dallay,<sup>2</sup> and Maury<sup>3</sup> (the old version last published around 1981); the English language catalogues Scott and Stanley Gibbons; and the German language catalogue Michel.

### Catalogue Numbering Systems

In my opinion, there is no catalogue treatment of the first issue of French Guiana that is completely satisfactory. Most arbitrarily designate some stamps as major varieties and some as minor. In the case of Scott, Maury, and Michel, one or more of them are not given a catalogue number. Generally, stamp catalogs reserve mi-


nor varieties for errors and shades that exist in smaller quantities than the major varieties. All five of the French Guiana first issue stamps exist in fairly similar quantities, and there is no reason to consider any of them "minor" rather than "major." In my opinion, each one should be given a *major* number. Only Gibbons does this and this happened after the catalogue completely renumbered the entire colony in the early 1990s. However, Gibbons orders the stamps differently than I do. My order is based on what I believe is the chronological order of issue. I cover this topic later.

Fig. 5 illustrates the listing from Y&T, probably the most widely used catalogue among France and Colonies collectors.

Y&T begins by accurately describing the three types of overprints. Unfortunately, they chose a strange way of numbering them. Instead of calling them Types I, II, and III (or 1, 2, and 3), they call them Type I (with "f," 10 ½ mm high), Ia (with "f," 12 mm high), and Ib (without "f"). For the Sage design, this unfortunate numbering system leads directly to confusion because Y&T assigns catalogue No.1 to Type Ia, and No.1a to Type I. I have seen stamp dealers on rue Drouot in Paris mislabeling stamps be-

1886-88. - Timbres des Colonies françaises surch. :

Dec 1886  
GUY FRANÇ.  
0<sup>f</sup> 05  
I



Déc. 1886 (I).

Il existe trois types principaux de la surcharge I :

I. Hauteur totale 101/2 mm, f après le 1<sup>er</sup> 0 :

Ia. Hauteur totale 12 mm, f après le 1<sup>er</sup> 0 :

Ib. Hauteur totale 121/2 mm, sans f après le 1<sup>er</sup> 0.

|    |   |       |   |       |   |
|----|---|-------|---|-------|---|
| 1  | 0 <sup>f</sup> 05 s. 2 c. de 1877 (Ia)    | 800   | » | 700   | » |
|    | a. 0 <sup>f</sup> 05 s. 2 c. de 1877 (I)  | 900   | » | 850   | » |
|    | b. 0 <sup>f</sup> 05 s. 2 c. de 1877 (Ib) | 1 000 | » | 950   | » |
| 2  | 0 <sup>f</sup> 05 s. 2 c. de 1881 (Ib)    | 550   | » | 480   | » |
|    | a. 0 <sup>f</sup> 05 s. 2 c. de 1881 (Ia) | 650   | » | 620   | » |
|    | Surcharge renversée.                      |       |   |       |   |
| 1c | 0 <sup>f</sup> 05 s. 2 c. de 1877 (I)     | »     | » | »     | » |
|    | Double surcharge.                         |       |   |       |   |
| 1d | 0 f. 05 s. 2 c. de 1877 (Ia)              | 2 000 | » | 2 000 | » |
| 2b | 0 f. 05 s. 2 c. de 1881 (Ib)              | 1 700 | » | 1 700 | » |

Figure 5. The catalogue listings from Yvert & Tellier.



Figure 6. Double overprints of four of the stamps.

cause of this confusing system. Fortunately, the other Sage stamp, Type Ib, is No.1b. For the Dubois design, they flip the order, giving No.2 to Type Ib and No. 2a to Type Ia.

Scott does not number the various types, but instead focuses on the presence or absence of the “f.” Strangely, the Scott listing consists of Nos. 1, 1b, 2, and 2b, leaving out both 1a and 2a. Like Y&T, Scott assigns No.1 to the Sage stamp with the overprint I call Type II. My Type I is assigned No. 1b while my Type III, the small overprint with “f,” is relegated to a mere mention and not given a catalogue number. For the Dubois design, the order is the same. My Type II is the major listing, No. 2, and my Type I is No.2b. Table I summarizes the differences between my numbering systems and those of Y&T and Scott.

### Varieties

Y&T lists an inverted overprint of No. 3. Maury lists one on a Sage stamp without specifying the overprint type. None of the other catalogs list such a variety. I have never seen an inverted overprint on any of these stamps and cannot verify its existence. Considering that the overprints were applied manually one at a time, it is hard to imagine how an inverted overprint could occur except intentionally.

With hand stamping, I believe that double overprints are much more likely than inverted overprints, either through bouncing of the handstamp apparatus or by stamping a second time to provide a clearer, “better” overprint. As seen in Fig. 6, double overprints are known for at least four of the five stamps. I have seen one mint and three used of No. 2, five mint of No.

Table I. Comparison of numbering systems.

| TYPES              |              |                   |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Author             | Y&T          | Scott             |
| I                  | Ib           | N/A               |
| II                 | Ia           | N/A               |
| III                | I            | N/A               |
| STAMPS             |              |                   |
| 1 (Sage Type I)    | 1b (Type Ib) | 1b                |
| 2 (Sage Type II)   | 1 (Type Ia)  | 1                 |
| 3 (Sage Type III)  | 1a (Type I)  | Mentioned in note |
| 4 (Dubois Type I)  | 2 (Type Ib)  | 2b                |
| 5 (Dubois Type II) | 2a (Type Ia) | 2                 |



3, one used of No. 4, four mint of No. 5, but none of No. 1.

No catalogue lists all the double overprints, and some (Scott, Gibbons, and Michel) omit such listings altogether. Y&T lists double overprints of only Nos. 2 and 4. Maury lists double overprints on both the Sage and Dubois designs, but does not specify the overprint type. Dallay lists a double overprint of No. 4 and one of the Sage design with “f,” but does not indicate whether it is No. 2 or 3. This is incomplete information. A double overprint of No. 2 is a very different stamp than a double overprint of No. 3. A stamp catalogue should list *all* known double overprints as minor varieties with the overprint type clearly specified.

### ***Multiples***

My survey has discovered few multiples and nothing approaching a full pane. At least one multiple of each has appeared on the market. The largest multiples are a used block of four of No. 1, shown in Fig. 7, and another of No. 4. There are four mint pairs, one of each of Nos. 2 and 3, and two of No. 5. There is a used pair of No. 2 and another of No. 4. All pairs are horizontal



Figure 7. Largest multiple noted in survey.



Figure 8. Only unused No. 1 in survey.

### ***Uses***

I believe that no covers bearing any of these stamps presently exist. Although it is close to impossible to prove that something does not exist, the evidence is strong that no covers bearing these stamps survived. In my experience, none have appeared on the market or been illustrated or mentioned in the philatelic literature. The only catalogue that prices covers, Dallay, leaves the cover price area blank for each of these stamps.

Unfortunately, without covers, we cannot tell what type of mail the stamps were used on or where they were sent. There are two examples of No. 1 and one each of Nos. 2 and 5 on piece, but the pieces are too small to tell us anything. However, because a circular date stamp containing the town name was the method of cancellation, a small number of used copies provide a legible town of origin. All such stamps in the survey were cancelled in Cayenne.

### ***Comparison to Catalogue Values***

Tallying the number of mint and used copies for each stamp in the survey produces some remarkable results. First, all but one No. 1 are used. Of the 45 copies surveyed, just one is mint as seen in Fig. 8. Second, all 45 copies of No. 3 are mint. Not a single used copy has turned up. Yet all catalogs that list No. 3 provide a price for a used copy. The other stamps show numerous mint and used copies, with No. 5 weighted fairly heavily toward mint.



Table II. Survey results

| No.   | Mint | Used | Total |
|-------|------|------|-------|
| 1     | 1    | 44   | 45    |
| 2     | 28   | 40   | 68    |
| 3     | 45   | 0    | 45    |
| 4     | 17   | 20   | 37    |
| 5     | 53   | 29   | 82    |
| Total | 144  | 133  | 277   |

When the mint and used quantities of each stamp are compared to catalogue prices, more remarkable things appear. For Nos. 1 and 3, mint and used prices are nearly equal even though the mint No.1 is 44 times rarer than a used copy, and a used No. 3 probably does not exist. The most expensive stamp in used condition, No. 1, is also the most numerous. For the Dubois stamps, No. 4 is priced lower than No. 5 but is actually much rarer. Overall, No. 4 is the rarest of the five even though it carries the lowest prices. In general, catalogue prices bear little or no relationship to actual rarity.

Table II shows the number of mint and used copies of each stamp in the survey.

If we graphically compare these survey figures

to the most recent Y&T catalogue prices, we see how poorly rarity correlates with price. (Keep in mind that where the quantity is low, the price should be high, and vice versa.) This is true for both the unused examples, Fig. 9, and the used examples, Fig. 10.

### Quantities Produced

Dallay gives 900 as the quantity produced of Type II (Nos. 2 and 5 combined). If this is correct, we can extrapolate from the survey data to approximate the quantity produced of each stamp. Assuming that each stamp was saved at approximately the same rate, we have the following estimates: No. 1, 275; No. 2, 400; No. 3, 275; No. 4, 225; and No. 5, 500.

### Conclusion

The treatment of the first issue of French Guiana in the various catalogues is mostly confusing and incomplete. All five stamps should be given major catalogue numbers. At least some of the known double overprint varieties are omitted from every catalogue. Catalogue values bear no relationship to observed rarity. Only one mint No. 1 has been reported, and no used examples of No. 3. Overall, No. 4 is the rarest. There are only a few known multiples of the five stamps, the largest being two blocks of four. Apparently, no covers bearing these stamps survived.

Based on the observed number of mint and

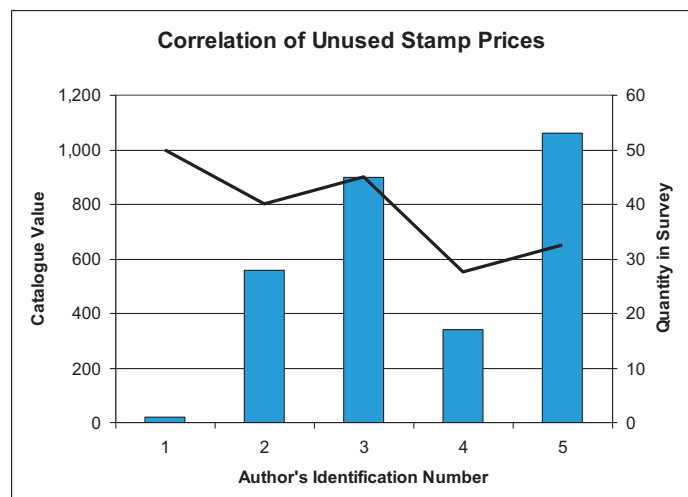


Figure 9. Correlation of prices of unused stamps to quantities observed in the survey.

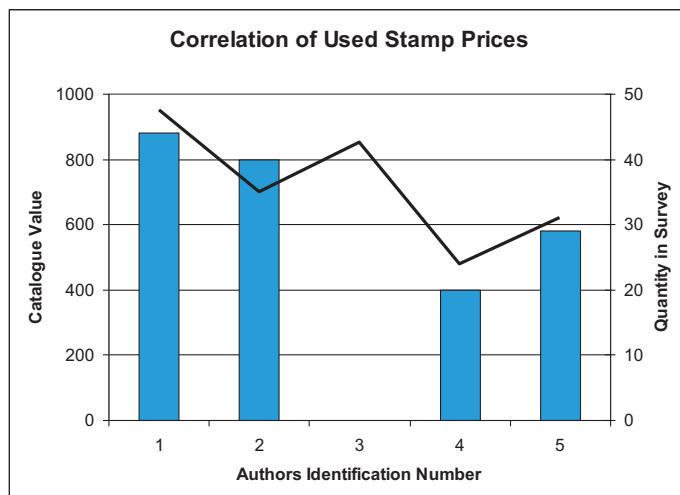


Figure 10. Correlation of prices of used stamps to quantities observed in the survey.

used copies, here is a proposed scenario regarding the creation of the first issue. With an existing or imminent lack of 5c stamps, postal officials in Cayenne decided to make some by overprinting surplus 2c stamps. A *composteur* was set up in the form of Type I to overprint these stamps manually, creating Nos. 1 and 4. Most were sold and used on mail soon thereafter, and not many mint copies were saved. The regular 5c stamps still had not arrived when the overprints were exhausted, so they made some more. Because the *composteur* had been dismantled, they had to reassemble it, and the first two lines wound up being closer together. They also decided to include the letter "f," acting as a decimal point, in case anyone thought that **0 05** might mean five francs. The result was the Type II overprint and Nos. 2 and 5. Before they were used up, the regular five-cent stamps arrived from Paris. The leftover overprints were set aside and later distributed to people who would save them, thus leaving us with a fair number of mint copies.

What about Type III? The *composteur* was again reassembled to produce a third batch of overprints. The resulting overprint closely resembles Type II but with the top two lines set still closer together. However, the complete lack of used copies strongly suggests that they were not produced with any postal use in mind. By late 1886, stamp collecting was a well known worldwide hobby, and some of the rarer issues of other countries, including local provisionals, were commanding handsome prices. I suspect that No. 3 was produced later (perhaps much later) primarily for the philatelic community.

### End Notes and References

1. I have used the latest versions of the major worldwide catalogues and their citations are not given.
2. *Catalogue de cations des Timbres des DOM-TOM 2004-2005*, Dallay S.A.R.L., Paris, June, 2004.
3. Maury, A., *Catalogue de timbres-poste: France et pays d'expression française*, 109e ed., Maison Arthur Maury, Paris, 1975.

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PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)

# Algeria: A Fraud Detected

**Ken Nilsestuen (FCPS 1990)**

*[I normally do not devote large amounts of space to figures, but the postal forms shown here are both fascinating and a great record of the French postal bureaucracy, so here they are. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did.]*

**Y**es, this is an inbound letter to Algeria, not one originating there. But there is a reason it holds a strong interest for me, and here's the story.

The writer of this letter, a notary in Grenoble named Sachet, addressed this letter to M. Brevard, the mayor of Fouka in the province of Alger. He attached a 25 centime stamp, which was then the current stamp and current rate. Unfortunately, the writer attempted to re-use an already canceled stamp. One can see that the grid cancel does not extend from the stamp onto the letter, an almost certain indicator that this was a reused stamp. This is clearly seen in Fig. 1 where the incomplete grid cancel is quite apparent.

This generated a lot of attention from the post office. The alert postal director in Grenoble noted on the letter that the stamp had been previously used. He also applied the "25" centimes due marking on the letter. He prepared form No. 1197, titled:

## AVIS DE CHARGEMENT

### D'UNE

LETTRE REVÊTUE D'UN TIMBRE-POSTE PRÉSUMÉ FRAUDULEUX

On the form the postal director described the basics of the letter and offered his observations why he considered the stamp to be reused, as required. Then he mailed form No. 1197 to the Paris postal administration, the office of "minor infractions." There is an indication that it was received on 21 June, the two day trip being about right for the 350 mile journey to Paris. The form, which when folded is also a self-mailer, is shown in Fig. 2.

The letter then went on to Coléah, Algeria, ar-

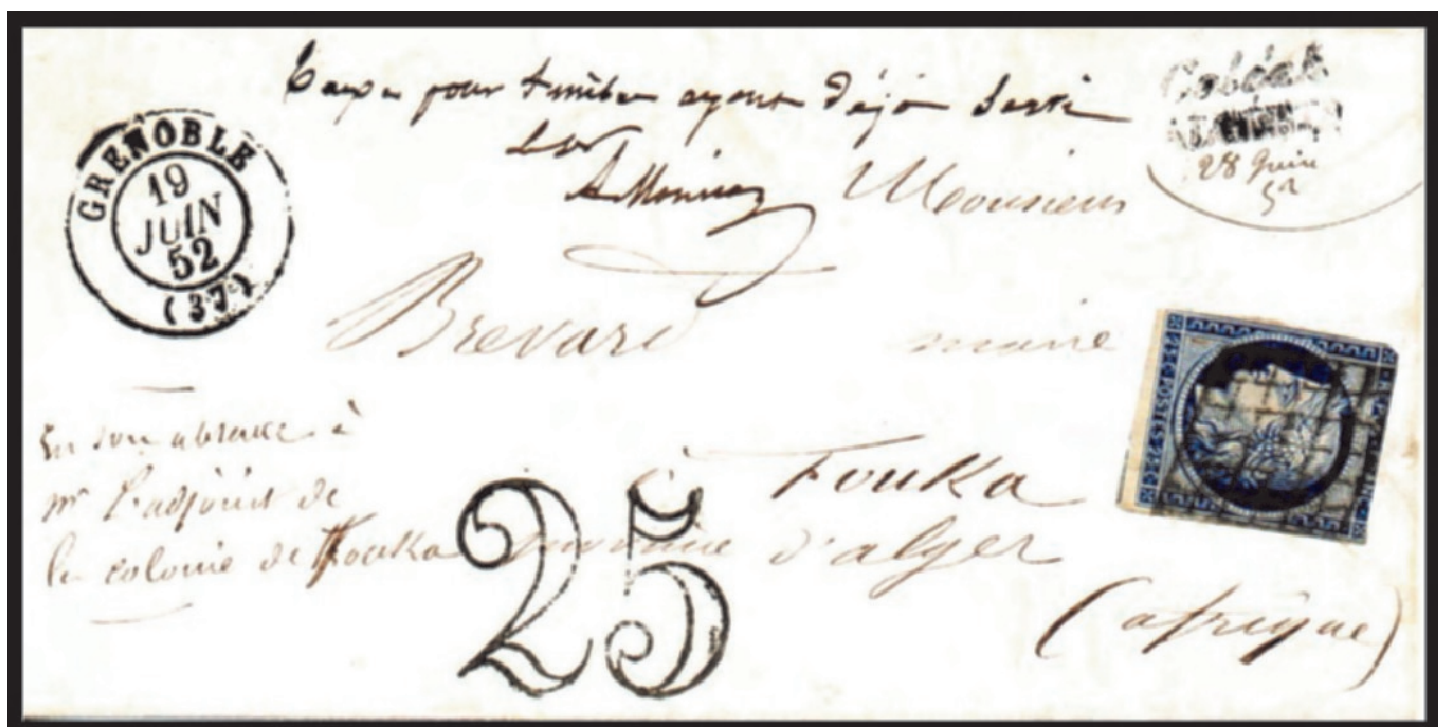


Figure 1. Letter attempting to reuse 25c Cérès stamp from Grenoble, France to Algeria



N° 1197.

ADMINISTRATION  
DES POSTES.

TIMBRE DU BUREAU.

*Grenoble*

AVIS DE CHARGEMENT  
D'UNE  
LETTRE REVÊTUE D'UN TIMBRE-POSTE PRÉSUMÉ FRAUDULEUX.  
(Exécution de la Circulaire du 10 mai 1849.)

La lettre ci-après décrite, affranchie au moyen d'un timbre-poste présumé frauduleux, a été aujourd'hui l'objet d'un chargement *tard* à l'adresse du directeur des postes du bureau de *foulha, Norme d'Alps*.

TABLEAU N° 1. — Description de la lettre objet du chargement.

| LETTRES NÉES<br>AU BUREAU.                           |                          | LETTRES REÇUES<br>DES CORRESPONDANTS (a). |   |                    | ADRESSE.<br>(Copie littérale.)                          | MOTIF<br>de<br>l'APPLICATION<br>de<br>la taxe. |
|--|--------------------------|---|---|--------------------|---|--|
| Bolte<br>de laquelle<br>la lettre<br>a été extraite. | Heure<br>de<br>la levée. | Timbre<br>d'origine.                      | Bureau<br>par<br>lequel<br>la lettre<br>est parvenue. | Date<br>d'arrivée. |   |  |
| 1  | 2                        | 3   | 4   | 5                  | 6   | 7  |
| <i>Norme d'Alps</i>                                  | <i>h.</i>                | <i>"</i>                                  | <i>"</i>  | <i>"</i>           | <i>M. Reverard maire<br/>à foulha<br/>Norme d'Alps.</i> | <i>(c)<br/>timbre<br/>ayant<br/>servi.</i>     |

TABLEAU N° 2. — Observations.

*La lettre sus désignée a été retirée de la poste  
par suite l'impression d'un ancien timbre oblitérant  
à Lézard.*

A *Grenoble* le 19 *Juin* 18*49*  
Le Directeur des Postes,  
*A. Pommerehne*

Pour le bureau des Contraventions à Paris.

Figure 2. The Form 1197, and the address side after it is folded and used to report the fraud to the Director of Posts in Paris.

*Grenoble*

A Monsieur le Directeur  
de l'Administration générale des Postes.  
(Pour le Bureau des Contraventions.)  
A PARIS.



ADMINISTRATION  
DES POSTES.

La direction appose et classe  
le timbre de son bureau.

**PROCÈS-VERBAL**

De saisie de lettres revêtues d'un timbre-poste d'affranchissement  
présupposé faux ou altéré.  
(Exécution de la circulaire du 10 mai 1849.)

Ce jour d'hui, *M. Louis Vignot* nous soussigné, directeur des postes à la résidence de *Colliat*,  
Agissant en vertu des pouvoirs qui nous sont conférés par la circulaire de  
M. le Directeur de l'Administration des postes en date du 10 mai 1849,  
Et assisté de M. <sup>(1)</sup> *Jacquard*, facteur rural  
Ayant invité M. <sup>(2)</sup> *Dommes* à se rendre à notre bureau pour y faire la reconnaissance d'une lettre à son  
adresse, laquelle a été trouvée revêtue d'un timbre-poste d'affranchissement  
paraissant contrefait ou altéré, et a été taxée pour ce motif;  
Après avoir fait lecture au susnommé des principales dispositions de la  
circulaire ci-dessus relatée.  
Lui avons représenté la lettre dont le détail suit :

| TIMBRE<br>provenant<br>de la lettre. | DATE<br>d'arrivée<br>au bureau<br>de destination. | ADRESSE<br>(Enlèvement transmis).   | Poids<br>en<br>grammes. | Taxe<br>de l'affranchissement<br>de la taxe (A). | MOTIF<br>de la taxe (A).   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|--|--|
| 1                                    | 2   | 3   | 4                       | 5  | 6  |
| <i>Genève</i>                        | <i>19 98</i>                                      | <i>M. Bresson, Maire<br/>à Foutta, province<br/>d'Alger, Afrique<br/>du Nord.</i> | <i>4</i>                | <i>6.</i>  | <i>Timbre<br/>altéré,<br/>compromis<br/>par le service des<br/>postes.</i> |

(A) Timbre contrefait ou timbre altéré.

Figure 3. Procès Verbal castigating the recipient of the fraudulent letter for trying to defraud the post office!

Le susnommé a reconnu que cette lettre lui était effectivement adressée.  
Nous l'avons requis, préalablement à toute autre opération, de verser entre  
nos mains le montant de la taxe apposée sur ladite lettre, ce à quoi il a  
obtempéré : après quoi nous l'avons invité à en faire l'ouverture en notre  
présence et à nous en faire connaître l'auteur.  
Ouverture ayant été faite comme il vient d'être dit, le susnommé nous a  
déclaré que la lettre dont il s'agit provenait de M. <sup>(1)</sup> *Jacques, Notaire*,  
ce que nous avons reconnu exact par l'inspection de la signature, qui a été  
placée sous nos yeux.  
Invité à nous remettre soit la lettre elle-même, après l'avoir recachetée,  
soit l'enveloppe de cette même lettre, ou, à défaut d'enveloppe, la portion  
de la lettre contenant la suscription et les timbres et autres marques exté-  
rieures constatant son passage par le service des postes, le susnommé a mis  
à notre disposition les objets dont suit l'énumération :  
1<sup>o</sup> La suscription contenant l'adresse  
de nom, la qualité, le Domicile de l'Européen  
2<sup>o</sup> Le Contre-poste altéré.  
Desquels objets nous nous sommes saisis à l'instant même, pour l'envoi en  
être fait, par le plus prochain courrier, à M. le Directeur de l'Administration  
générale des postes, conformément aux instructions.  
Et nous avons clos le présent procès-verbal, que le susnommé a signé avec  
nous, et dont nous lui avons laissé une copie.  
Fait à \_\_\_\_\_, lesdits jour et an.  
Signature du Destinataire, \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature du Directeur, \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature du Fonctionnaire assistant, \_\_\_\_\_  
N.B. Si, dans le cours de l'opération, le destinataire refuse d'accéder à l'une des clauses  
du procès-verbal, ou s'il refuse de signer, il en sera fait mention et le procès-verbal  
sera clos. Le Directeur, dans ce cas, retiendra la lettre et agira comme il est prescrit  
par la circulaire du 10 mai 1849.

iving 28 June. Note the *distribution* cancel and handwritten notation below it. Fouka was too small to have a post office, so Coléah was the closest. On 29 June the addressee appeared at the post office where he was read the riot act. These documents are shown in Fig. 3. It is interesting that this is quite formal. There were two government officials present, both of whom signed the form. The facts are clearly laid out in the table on the bottom of the first page of Fig. 3, including the 25 centimes postage due. One suspects that this is part of the trail of evidence that the state would then use to prosecute M. Sachet, the person who started this entire process by reusing a stamp.

After a lecture about reusing stamps (which, you remember, was done by the *sender*), the postal authority opened the letter to ensure it came from M. Sachet. All of this was documented on a largely pre-printed two-page postal form (no number) that M. Brevard had to sign after his ordeal. The Coléah cancel is on the form. The postal service retained the exterior of the letter and the sender's signature. Now it becomes clearer that M. Sachet is going to see the full force of the law directed at him. By having the postal officials retain the exterior of the letter, including the reused stamp, the purpose of this inquiry and meeting is to retain the evidence that will make M. Sachet's life a bit more miserable. The note at the very bottom of page two also provides rules in case the recipient doesn't cooperate. The post office would keep the letter, including contents, and follow the procedures of the 1849 postal circular for prosecuting fraudulent postal activities. While there is no clear indication, it seems that this form and the exterior of the letter were then sent to Paris. One must assume that the Parisian postal administration was awaiting these items to match them up with Form 1197 that had been dutifully completed and mailed ten days earlier from Grenoble.

The last document related to the attempted fraud is a pre-printed form letter from the Parisian legal counsel of the postal administration to the public prosecutor at Grenoble, shown in Fig. 4 (next page). It refers to M. Sachet, the sender, his attempt to defraud the post office, and mentions that the necessary documents are enclosed to allow for prosecution. It is a very strong encouragement to the

Grenoble prosecutor to chase down M. Sachet and bring him to justice. The evidence seems pretty clear that he reused a stamp, an offense that was not to be taken lightly. In the interior of the document there are two lists of indicative traits that show a stamp has been fraudulently reused. Just as in the diagram, the stamp on the letter bears a lozenge cancel that clearly does not extend onto the paper of the letter.

Can you imagine how difficult it is to find all of these documents still associated with each other after all these years? This was one of the "must haves" for my exhibit, although now that I have it, it will be a project to get all of this onto one page in a way that will tell the story!

As usual, I welcome your comments and corrections.

*[Can you also imagine the cost for doing all of these steps to collect 25c? Why isn't the postage due marking sufficient? Only government bureaucracies can invent such nonsense. Ed.]*

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## WE GET LETTERS

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In addition to interpreting the manuscript marking from Steve Tucker's cover, published in the October 2010[!] *FCP*, there is another noteworthy aspect of this cover. Even an examination of the reproduced cover shows that the *Guinee* CDS is truncated below the top and to the left of the Caillie stamp. Typically, this would indicate a missing stamp. It is additionally possible that the staining to the left of the Caillie stamp is gum residue. It further appears that the "missing stamp" may have had a fragment of selva or another stamp (as does the Caillie stamp) that, upon loss, left a truncated cancel that aligns perfectly with the extra selva or fragment of superjacent stamp on the remaining one. This suggests a pair of the Caillie stamps, but does that help the rate question.

**Tom Broadhead (FCPS 2830)**

*The editor apologizes to Tom for taking so long to print this important informational letter. It got lost in one of my shuffles!*



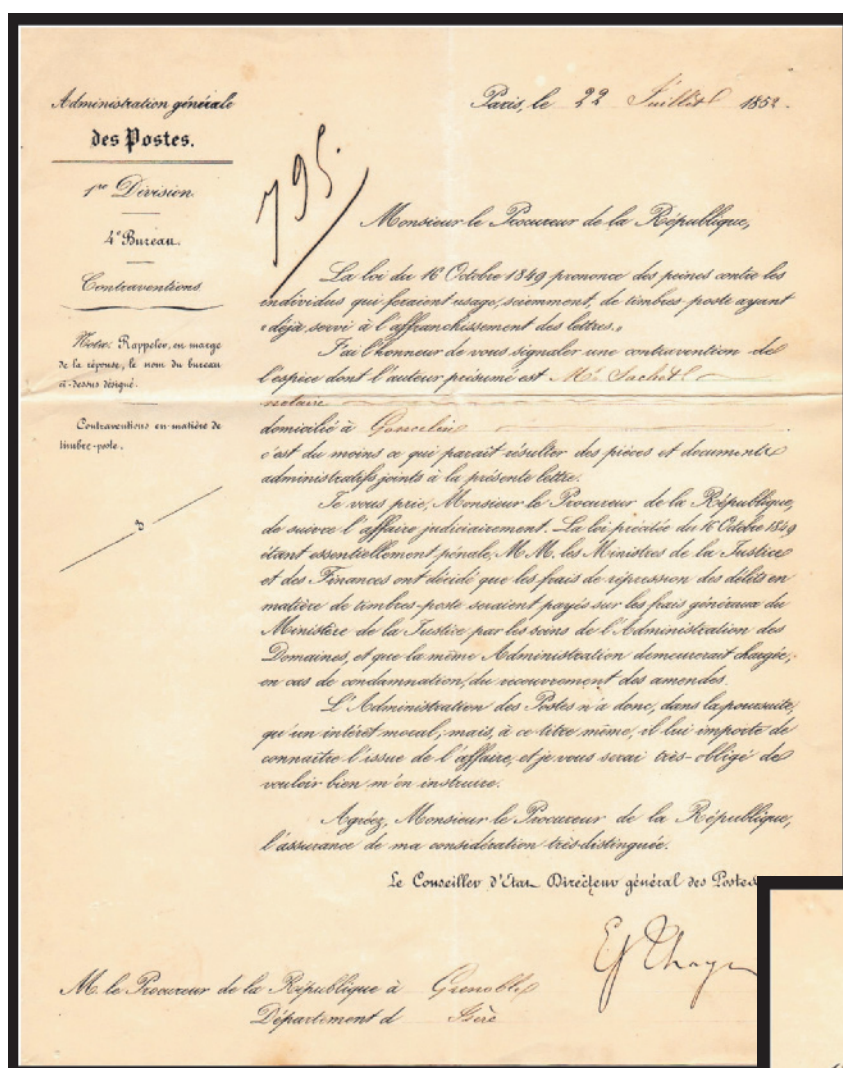
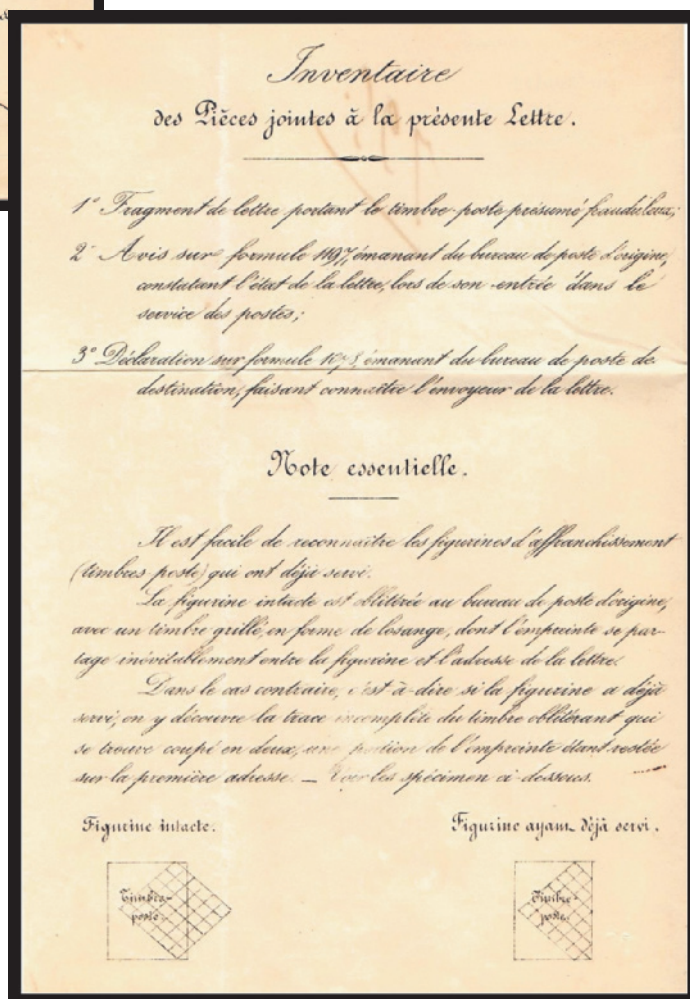


Figure 4. Notice to the postal employees requesting that they be alert for fraudulent use of stamps.

Shown below is reverse giving instructions for explaining how fraudulent use was accomplished.



# Mystery at Médine

Ed Wener

*Long-time friend, member of the FCPS and advertiser has periodic mini-studies included with his price lists. This little gem appeared in the latest list. In the event you collect colonies, a simple request to [ed.na@extra.co.nz](mailto:ed.na@extra.co.nz) will bring his list winging your way by email.*

Nothing gives a philatelist more pleasure than showing that wonderful collection to friends and family and there's nothing better to keep old Ned from nodding off than a stamp with a good story or better still a mystery.

The first two stamps of French Sudan are both rare and mysterious. In fact so little is known about these stamps that a possible third variety has been consigned to the closet, much like a family embarrassment. What we do know is that there was a shortage of 15c and 25c values in early 1894. Governor Grodet decided to have two stamps surcharged locally. A lithographic plate was prepared and 1000 of the 75c and 950 of the 1fr General Issues were surcharged. (The official order does not mention which issue was to be surcharged) The stamps were not given to the public but rather were affixed to letters and cancelled at the Post Office wicket, which explains their exceptional rarity in mint condition. The stamps were issued 12 April 1894 and stocks depleted by 18 July 1894.

The problem was that two types of 15c/75c surcharges began showing up in Paris. Most were like the 25c/1fr, that is, on General Issue Commerce Type stamps. The less common 15c/75c surcharge was on the imperforate Sage Type. It had what appeared to be an authentic surcharge and was for a long time sold as genuine in the philatelic market. In 1947 Maurice Chevasu wrote a long article about these Sudan stamps.<sup>1</sup> To emphasize how rare these three stamps are he mentions some of the great sales of the past: Bernichon had both the perf and imperforate 15c (see Fig. 1 right), but no 25c, Ferrari had a faulty perf 15c, a faulty mint 25c and an imperforate 15c (see

Fig. 1, left) while the 1928 de Vinck sale had an imperforate 15c that sold for 775 francs (equivalent to 1.49 oz gold = US\$2,675 today)

However, not all philatelists agreed that these 75c imperforate Sage Types were officially issued and various theories were put forward to explain their existence. One early theory stated that someone in Paris, not realizing that the stamps used in Sudan were the Commerce Type, sent a sheet of imperforate 75c Sage Type to Médine and had a postal official apply the Surcharge. This theory fails because of the time required for news of the Sudan issues to reach Paris (5 or 6 weeks) and a similar lag to get the request to Sudan.

A second theory, according to the 1917 Yvert catalogue, stated that after the surcharging was complete the lithographic stone was broken into pieces, someone retrieved a portion of this stone and took it to Paris where he then surcharged either 100 or 150 imperforate 75c values (Scott General Issues #28 Sage type). This theory was based on the "fact" that the line between Soudan Fais and the Of15 was identical on all the imperforates, proving that they came from the same plate position, whereas the lines vary from position to position on the plate. One flaw in this theory is that a lithographic stone can be reused by effacing the previous work and repolishing the surface. Given the difficulty of replacing essential equipment in the remote Colony it is doubtful a lithographic stone would be destroyed.

Jump forward to the 1929 Yvert catalogue and we find this earlier theory was dropped in preference of another: that is, the surcharged imperforate values were actually done in the Colony after the printing was complete as a favor (*par complaisance*) using the identical plate that was used for the issued stamps. We must assume from this that evidence was found that proved the surcharged imperforates were plateable and came from different positions.





Figure 1.

What about the earlier Sage types? Were they used in Sudan? Well the current Maury catalogue records three different off cover 75c Sage Types with **Soudan-Français** cancels. They also include a note stating the these must have come from an issue of Sage Types sent to Senegal which made their way to the then Senegalese Post Offices in Sudan. This seems to be proof that the 75c Sage type stamps were in Sudan at some point and therefore it is possible a small quantity of these values remained unsold at the time of the 1894 shortage.

Current catalogues are mostly silent on the status of these imperforate stamps. Scott repeats the discredited 1917 story. Note that none of the theories mentioned above states that the 15c/75c imperforates were forgeries. The only recent listing I've seen of one of these imperforates was over ten years ago by a prominent Parisian dealer who described the stamp as an essay.

So what can we make of this mystery? One of the difficulties in researching this topic is that the early Post Office records for Sudan were lost in an 1896 fire. However, it seems to me that both Yvert explanations about the so-called doubtful status of these imperforate stamps fail for one central reason. If all the genuine surcharged stamps were the perforated Commerce Types why would someone trying to create a fake/copy go to the trouble of buying quantities of the earlier imperforate Sage Type? This would immediately raise suspicions. This is not the way a forger operates. Simplicity is the first rule of forgery. You would not go to all the trouble of arranging a favor surcharge and then use the wrong stamp and then have these all cancelled using the same town and date when it would be far easier to sell them Mint.

Could these Sage Type surcharges be genuine? Well one of the arguments against this was that the Sudan was never sent Sage type stock. Before its creation in August 1890 the Sudan was administered as part of Senegal including three post offices (at Bafoulabe, Kayes and Kita) and covers are known from the 1880's from these Senegalese offices bearing the perforated Commerce Types.

It is therefore conceivable that these imperforate Sage Types made up part of the stock used to create the issued stamps. The decree authorizing them does not say whether the 75c stamps were all of the same design. After the overprinting was complete the stamps were distributed and a quantity of Sage overprints could have made its way to the Médine office and due to the stamp shortage quickly used up, many perhaps on the first day. And so the mystery remains unsolved. The imperforate stamps come out of the closet from time to time and appear in the market place Status Unknown. What are they? Excellent forgeries or unrecognized rarities? What are they worth? What is a good story worth?

Two examples, both shown in Fig. 1, that we offered in our latest list include General Issue 28 with surcharge as Sudan 1 tied MEDINE 15 April 1894 to piece (left). Small crease or possible tear at right otherwise VF with *vente Ferrari* in pencil on reverse. The second example, again General Issue 28 with surcharge as Sudan 1 also tied MEDINE 15 April 1894 to piece (right). Vertical crease, but appears fine and signed Jules Bernichon, Paris on the reverse.

## Reference

1. Chevasu, M., "Les Surcharges Soudan Français de 1894 Dossier," Bulletin COLFRA, No. 95, 2ème trimestre, 2001, pp. 1-14. This is a long article with additional comments by R. Chrombez and C. Bouerat. Chevassu's portion of the article was reprinted from *Echo de la Timbrologie* No. 1125, 31 August 1947.



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## NECROLOGY

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### **Raymond L. Gaillaguet**

FCPS Life member

1 September 1920 — 22 June 2011

We are saddened to have to report the death of **Ray Gaillaguet**, one of the Senior members of the FCPS. Ray was born in Paris, the son of Emile and Yvonne Gaillaguet. He attended the Sorbonne in Paris and was a graduate of Bryant College. He held joint French and US citizenship, and worked for the OSS during World War II. As part of his OSS activities, he parachuted into France three times during the German occupation. He and his wife Denise, also deceased, lived in Rumford, RI outside of Providence. He owned and ran Emile's of Paris, a fashionable hair dressing salon in Wayland Square in Providence, which was named in honor of his father.

Ray's philatelic activities were numerous. He received an international Vermeil Medal at Philadelphia's Interphil 76 show for his *Bordeaux: Birth of the Third Republic* exhibit (see photo below); and two international Gold Medals for his exhibit on the *Early Sower Issues*. Many considered this exhibit, thanks to constant development especially with proofs and booklets, to be the best in the world. This exhibit was also shown extensively in the United States where it received two Grand Awards.

Ray was US Commissioner to four international exhibitions beginning with Philexfrance 82 in Paris, Bangkok 83, Chicago 86 (Eastern US) and Philexfrance 89. He was an accredited APS judge for some seventeen years. He was a past president of the Rhode Island Philatelic Society, and one of the driving forces behind the annual RIPEX Shows for many years. He was also a longtime trustee of the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum and a past president of the Philatelic Group of Boston. He was a founding member of the Northeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs, and the principal translator of Brun's *Faux et Truques* published by the APS. He received numerous awards for meritorious service to philately over his lifetime.

For the FCPS he was its first out-of-town Board member, and wrote a number of articles of lasting

value. He was a great and witty correspondent, full of anecdotes regarding facts, great restaurants, places to visit, latest Sower acquisitions, adventures in constant remounting of the same, and on the fatal errors made by any number of unqualified (in his opinion!) jury members.

Members and friends were always welcomed to the Gaillaguet household. Meals were always in the grand French tradition supported by wonderful selections of French wines. Many thought the *Chez Gaillaguet* was the best restaurant in Rhode Island. He and Denise also maintained a lovely suburban Paris apartment at which philatelists were equally welcomed. The Luft's and Herendeen's fondly remember the trip with Ray (Denise was ill) on the *Bateau Mouche* in Paris during Philexfrance 99.

Ray always encouraged and supported younger philatelists in their endeavors. One of us (EJGG) entered his first Group Type exhibit in RIPEX 80 at Ray's instigation, and received a Silver Medal for his three frames of material. Little did either realize what a monster had been released! The RIPEX Shows always had a strong representation of French area material due to Ray's efforts.

Ray had a full and active life with serious wartime activities in the OSS, owning his own business and being one of the leaders and doers of philately. He is very much missed by all who knew him and who knew of him.

**S.J. Luft  
J.E. Lievsay, and  
E.J.J. Grabowski**



Ray Gaillaguet and Marc Martin in front of Ray's *Bordeaux* Exhibit at Interphil 76.

# Gleanings From the Group Type:

## *The 15 Centimes Regional Registration Rate as Seen in Senegal and French Sudan*

*By Edward Grabowski (FCPS 1469)*

**M**y odyssey with the Group Type continues, and currently I am completing an exhibit on its use in Senegal, French Sudan, Senegambia & Niger and related areas. I did an introduction to this area in 1994<sup>1</sup> which highlights the variety of Group Type material for which one can search. While working on the current exhibit, I came across an issue that I avoided in the 1994 article — there seems to have been a special regional 15c registry charge in lieu of the usual 25c registry charge normally seen on mail in the French Community during the period of the Group Type's use.

One of my earliest indications of the possibility of a 15c rate for registration in this West African region was the cover shown in Figure 1. It was posted on 13 September 1894 from Kayes, French Sudan to Rufisque, Senegal at a 30c registered rate. It caught my eye because of the unusual franking to prepay the postage. It is

franked with the April 1894 provisional issue of French Sudan wherein the 1F Dubois General Issue was revalued at 25 centimes. This is an exceptional stamp to have on cover. Completing the franking is the 5 centimes Group Type issue of Senegal, not French Sudan. During this period in 1894 there was a shortage of French Sudan stamps, and Senegal issues, stamps and stationery, were employed to fill the shortage. At the time of purchase, I was concerned about the rate, as I was expecting a standard 50c rate for registered mail between colonies. However, given that the envelope was received at Rufisque on September 19th, and is signed by Calves and Roumet, I made the purchase given the very low probability of ever seeing a mixed franking like this in the future. This 30c rate is unusual in two contexts. In 1894 the rate between colonies was 25c. One way this cover would make sense was if French



Figure 1. Early example of the 30c regional registry rate (15c postage and 15c registration) employing the 15/1F French Sudan provisional issue in combination with the 5c Group Type.





Figure 2. Apparent verification of the 15c Registration fee.

Sudan and Senegal were administratively being treated as the same entity with a 15c local rate. This would leave 15c for registration, which again would have to be a special regional rate, not seen in other colonies. Another view was that this was a registered printed matter rate (5c postage and 25c registration), but that seemed unlikely as the envelope was sealed for transit and there was no manuscript indication for printed matter.

So the matter stood, until I purchased the cover shown in Fig. 2. It was sent from Kita, French Sudan on 24 July 1895 to Kayes which was the capital of the colony at the time. It is based on a 25c envelope from Senegal, brought to the 30c rate with a 5c Group Type stamp, also from Senegal. Again, I had a 30c registered rate cover (possibly 15c local postage plus 15c registration) with no indication of printed matter. The use of Senegalese stamps was still needed or being tolerated in mid-1895. As I prepared to mount these covers for the exhibit, I contacted specialists in the area (**Paul Larsen**, **Peter Kelly** and **Alain Millet**) to see if they were aware of a 15c registered rate in effect for Senegal and the French Sudan. **Alain Millet**, who has a superb philatelic library, came through with a citation for the 15c registry rate. In *Les Postes et Télégraphes en Afrique Occidentale*, which was issued by the *Gouvernement Général de L'AOF* for the *Exposition Coloniale de Marseille* in 1907, a 15c rate for registration is noted on page 158 for regional mail (*service intérieur*). This is the first docu-



Figure 3. Second example from the Millet collection.

mentation of this rate that I am aware of, but it is well-removed time-wise from the covers that I am citing.

To add more spice to the stew, Alain sent a scan of a cover from his collection which is shown in Fig. 3. It is a commercial letter posted from Kayes also on 13 September 1894 to Saint Louis, Senegal and also franked at the 30c regional registered rate with two 15c Group Type stamps of Senegal. Although documentation for this rate during the mid-1890's remains to be established, these three covers clearly establish its existence during this period. But what of other periods, especially years closer to the citation of 1907 noted above?

I have three examples, all used locally within the colony of Senegal. The first was posted at a 25c registered rate on 19 April 1907 and used within the city of Dakar (Fig. 4). At this time, the 10c rate was in effect for mail within a village or town, for mail within a colony and for mail within the French Community. It is franked with a 15c Group Type stamp and a 10c Faidherbe stamp. At the time I purchased this cover, I thought that the sender (*Arsenal de Dakar*) might have had a free franking privilege due to an association with the government or military and the 25c postage was for registration. However, there is no indication of such on the envelope (typically a manuscript endorsement and signature), and the sender seems better described as an agency rather than an individual. The more logical interpreta-





Figure 4. Earliest example (1907) of the 10c local letter rate and special 15c Registration fee.

tion of the rate is that it is a 10c local rate plus the 15c regional registration rate. The second example (Fig. 5) is a commercial letter posted locally within the small village of Kébémér on 23 March 1913 franked at the 25c registered rate with 1912 overprints. The final one was posted on 16 May 1913 at the small village of Podor (Fig. 6) to Saint Louis also at the 25c registered rate. This one is unusually franked with 1903 and 1912 overprints, the former representing very late use of the overprinted stamp. This is the sum total of the covers of which I am aware which show use of the 15c regional charge for registration within the Senegal and French Sudan area. Possibly additional examples will now surface from other collections, which will fill in the gaps in the current array.

There is one more item worthy of mention which was actually given to me by a dealer because he thought it of little interest. It is a registered printed matter wrapper posted within

the city of Dakar in 1910 at a 15c rate (Fig. 7). Again the questions about the applicable rate arise. One possibility is that this is a government publication that could be sent post-free, so the 15c charge is for registration only. The other is that it was charged at the 5c printed matter rate (for up to fifty grams) with a special 10c registration charge for local or regional printed matter. There is no suggestion that the Tribunal de Commerce was eligible for government franchise, so I am tending to think that the latter possibility is the more likely one. Again, I would be pleased to hear from readers relative to similar material residing in their collections.

### References

1. Grabowski, E., "The French Colonial Allegorical Group Type as Used in Africa, Part I: Senegal, the French Sudan, and Senegambia & Niger," *FCP*, **50**(2), pp. 33-50, 1994.



Figure 5. 1913 example of the 10c local letter rate and special 15c Registration

Figure 6. Another 1913 example of the 10c local letter rate and special 15c Registration fee.



Figure 7. Unexplained rate on wrapper band. (See text).



# The Debut of a Fantasy Inini Overprint

Paul Larsen (FCPS 2493)

Ever get a really interesting philatelic Christmas present? In 2010 I did. The envelope contained a large stock card with a series of French Guiana issues all with a bold single line overprint **ININI**. They are completely unlike the genuine **ININI** overprint issues initially released in 1932 using formats like those shown in Fig. 1. And they do have a certain charm of their own.



Figure 1. The genuine ININI Overprints.

The fantasy overprints measure about 6 mm high by 23½-24 mm wide. They were probably applied singly with a rubber stamp. This is supported by the fact that the overprint placement angle and ink density varies throughout the series. Overprinted postage stamp denomi-

nations of 1c to 40c (except the 3c and the 30c Sc118, Yv117 seen in Fig.4) are shown in Fig. 2. Note that that 25c stamp was not overprinted. The vertical format stamps show the overprint at an angle reading upwards. The horizontal format stamps are overprinted horizontally. Postage due stamps of 5c-30c were also overprinted and are shown in Fig. 3.

Fantasy issues often have a prepared justification scenario and this group did include one. The enclosure read:

## UNAUTHORIZED PROVISIONAL OVERPRINTS

*In 1930 when the interior of French Guiana was made a special administration area overprinted stamps were ordered for this new territory. While awaiting the arrival of the new stamps a postal clerk conceived the idea of producing a provisional overprint until the new stock of stamps arrived. It was a single line "ININI" overprint on various values of French Guiana stamps.*

*How many and what values are not known as his supervisor spotted the overprints he had been selling and immediately confiscated them. The clerk was later ordered to pay for the stamps he had overprinted as it was determined that these stamps had been "obliterated" and not valid for postal use. It is not known how long these stamps were being sold to the public but at present no covers are known.*



Figure 2. Complete "Set" of Fantasy Overprints.





Figure 3. The Fantasy Postage Due Overprints.

Table 1 summarizes information on genuine and the fantasy overprints. Inini Scott Catalogue numbers are sequential, 109-121 for denominations 1c-40c, although the 3c, 30c, and a 35c were not issued until 1938-40. Non-sequential Inini Yvert Catalogue numbers 157, 158 and 117A are evident for these denominations. Obviously, these three stamps would not yet have been printed at the time when the “postal clerk” produced his overprints. This *faux pas* reminds once again that attention to detail helps cook up a more plausible fantasy.

I was fortunate to obtain the quantities of each denomination prepared and this is also included in Table 1. Overprint quantities vary from a low of two on the 40c value to a high of 35 on the 10c. So, basically there are two complete “as produced series” and scattered quantities of the remainder. Finally, the sharp-eyed viewer may have noticed that the Yvert 117 30c



Figure 4. The Inverted Overprint

dark and light green shown in Fig. 4 has an ***inverted*** overprint which may even be unique. How do we know it’s inverted? By comparing the serifs on the **N**s, as shown.

**One last thought:** *this writer could have withheld the Yvert 157-158 and 117A stamps from this account and lent a bit more plausibility to the preparer’s overprint scenario, but that is not my style.*

Table 1. Fantasy Inini Overprints on French Guiana Issues 1929-1940

| Scott No.†         | Yvert No.† | Denomination | Color (Scott)                      | Quantity |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| 109                | 109        | 1c.          | Gray lilac & greenish blue         | 23       |
| 110                | 110        | 2c.          | Dark red & blue green              | 14       |
| 111                | 157        | 3c.          | Gray lilac & greenish blue ('40)   | 14       |
| 112                | 111        | 4c.          | Olive brown & red violet           | 15       |
| 113                | 112        | 5c.          | Prussian blue & red orange         | 13       |
| 114                | 113        | 10c.         | Magenta & brown                    | 35       |
| 115                | 114        | 15c.         | Yellow brown & red orange          | 23       |
| 116                | 115        | 20c.         | Dark blue & olive green            | 10       |
| 117                | 116        | 25c.         | None produced                      | ---      |
| 118                | 117        | 30c.         | Dark & light green                 | 3        |
| 119                | 158        | 30c.         | Green & brown ('40)                | 10       |
| 120                | 117A       | 35c.         | Prussian green & olive green ('38) | 5        |
| 121                | 118        | 40c.         | Orange brown & olive gray          | 2        |
| Postage Due Stamps |            |              |                                    |          |
| J13                | TT13       | 5c.          | Indigo & Prussian blue             | 13       |
| J14                | TT14       | 10c.         | Bistre brown & Prussian green      | 9        |
| J15                | TT15       | 20c.         | Green & rose red                   | 6        |
| J16                | TT16       | 30c.         | Olive brown & rose red             | 7        |

† Catalogue numbers are for basic French Guiana stamps.

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## Show Reports

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### WESTPEX 2011

San Francisco, CA, April 2011

Gold medal to **Steven C. Walske**.

### Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2011

Denver, CO, May 2011

Gold medal and Grand Award to **Jamie Gough** for his "UPU: Rule, Regulations and Rates," also gold medals to **Ralph DeBoard** for his "The Postal History of Tahiti Through the First Pictorial Issue," **Stan Luft** for his "France: the 30 centime Cameo Sower," which also received the Best Exhibit by a Colorado Resident, and to **Paul Larsen**. Two vermeil awards to **Eliot Landau**, and Vermeils medals to **Steve Tucker**, **Stan Luft** and Lewis **Bussey**.

### NOJEX 2011

Secaucus, NJ, May 2011

Gold medal to **Ed Grabowski** for his "Postal History of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Use in the French Pacific Ocean Colonies" which also won a Sectional Award for Best Worldwide Exhibit.

### National Topical Stamp Show 2011

Milwaukee, WI, June 2011

Gold medal and Grand Award to **Eliot Landau** for his "Lincoln, Slavery and the Civil War."

### Minnesota Stamp Expo 2011

Minneapolis, MN, July 2011

Vermeil medal to **Jay Carrigan** and a silver medal to **Al Kugel**. Both gentlemen also received silver medals for single-frame exhibits.

### STAMPSHOW 2011

Columbus, OH, August 2011

At Stampshow this year, we had an incredible number of members in competition for the Champion of Champions title. Two entrants showed French related material: **Dave Herendeen's** "Evolution of Postage Due in the French Community;" and **Eliot Landau's**

"Classic France: Postal History of the Ceres and Napoleon Issues of 1849-1875." Eliot had a second entry, as well. Other members in the running included **Jamie Gough**, **Al Kugel** and **Paul Larsen**.

In the open class, **Steve Washburne** received a Gold. In the single-frame class, **Stan Luft** received Vermeil for his "France: The Railway Transfer Offices (1864-1882).

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## Membership Notices

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### NEW MEMBERS

- 3433 Haber, Lawrence D., Charleston, SC
- 3434 Elmore, George R., West Jefferson, NC
- 3435 Yeomans, John, West Sussex, UK
- 3436 Burton, Charles W., Raleigh, NC

### ADDRESS CHANGES

- 2941 Adams, James A., Jr., Glendale, SC
- 2229 Burk, Michael R., Scotts Valley, CA
- 1296 Kudzma, Thomas G., Laconia, NH
- 3265 Sellwood, Jackson S., Brigantine, NJ
- 3348 Tricard, Marc, Glastonbury, CT

### DECEASED

- 2807 Barracano, Ralph R.
- 621 Gaillaguet, Raymond L.

## — CLEVELAND —

PLEASE CONTACT

**Dave Herendeen**

**fcped@aol.com**

**If you would like  
to exhibit or present  
at our next  
CONVENTION**



# Direction des PTT Cameroun

## Postmarks and Aviation Accidents

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

Depicted in the figures shown below are seven different postmarks of the Cameroun PTT. Three were reported in 1990 (Ref. 1); four more have subsequently been identified. All were used at PTT headquarters at Douala. For simplified presentation, all of the figures are shown at the end of the article with the exception of the cancels, Figs. 4 and 6.

Fig. 1 reads *Postes et Telegraphes du Cameroun*. The observed dates range from 1917 through 1933. Unusually, the datestamp was routinely used on mail - including registered letters - from Meiganga at least during the period 25 August through 3 November 1931. The datestamp may also have been temporarily used at other locations, possibly Bangangte. With the exception of those from Meiganga, the examples seen to date are poorly struck, but it is quite likely that there were two or more different cancellers with the same appearance and wording.

Figs. 2 and 3 both read *Direction des Postes et Telegraphes Cameroun*. The canceller in Fig. 2 has a relatively small gap between *Direction* and *des*; the observed dates of use are 24 July 1929 through 27 October 1945. The canceller in Fig. 3 has a relatively large gap; the observed dates of use are 19 September 1929 through 21 August 1938. These devices replaced the canceller(s) in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 reads *Direction des P.T.T. Cameroun*. The observed dates of use are 5 February 1937 through 12 November 1939.

Fig. 5 also reads *Direction des P.T.T. Cameroun* but the letters are smaller and there are stops in the date. The observed dates of use are 9 April 1942 through 9 July 1947. This postmark is on an ambulance cover. It contained a letter that had been aboard an airplane that had crashed on 1 July 1947 while en route between Bangui and Douala.

Fig. 6 simply reads *Douala Direction*. The observed dates of use are 9 July 1939 through 12 October 1943.

Fig. 7 reads *Dir<sup>ion</sup> des Postes et Telecommunications Cameroun*. The only example seen is dated 17 February 1951. This postmark is also on an ambulance cover. It contained a letter that had been aboard an airplane that had crashed on 3 February 1951.

Thanks are extended to Bertrand Sinais and Bill Mitchell for contributing three of the examples shown. Further examples of these elusive Cameroun PTT datestamps are welcome.

### Reference

1. Bratzel, M.P. Jr., H. Kraja, and R.J. Maddocks. *Les oblitérations du Cameroun 1914-1960*. MPB Canada, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 1990. 83 pages. ISBN 0-9694026-0-0.



Figure 4. *Direction des P.T.T. Cameroun*, 5 February 1937 through 12 November 1939.

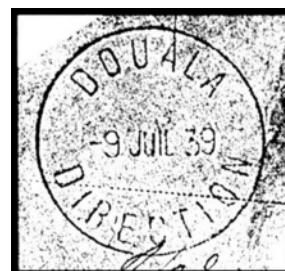


Figure 6. *Douala Direction*, 9 July 1939 through 12 October 1943.

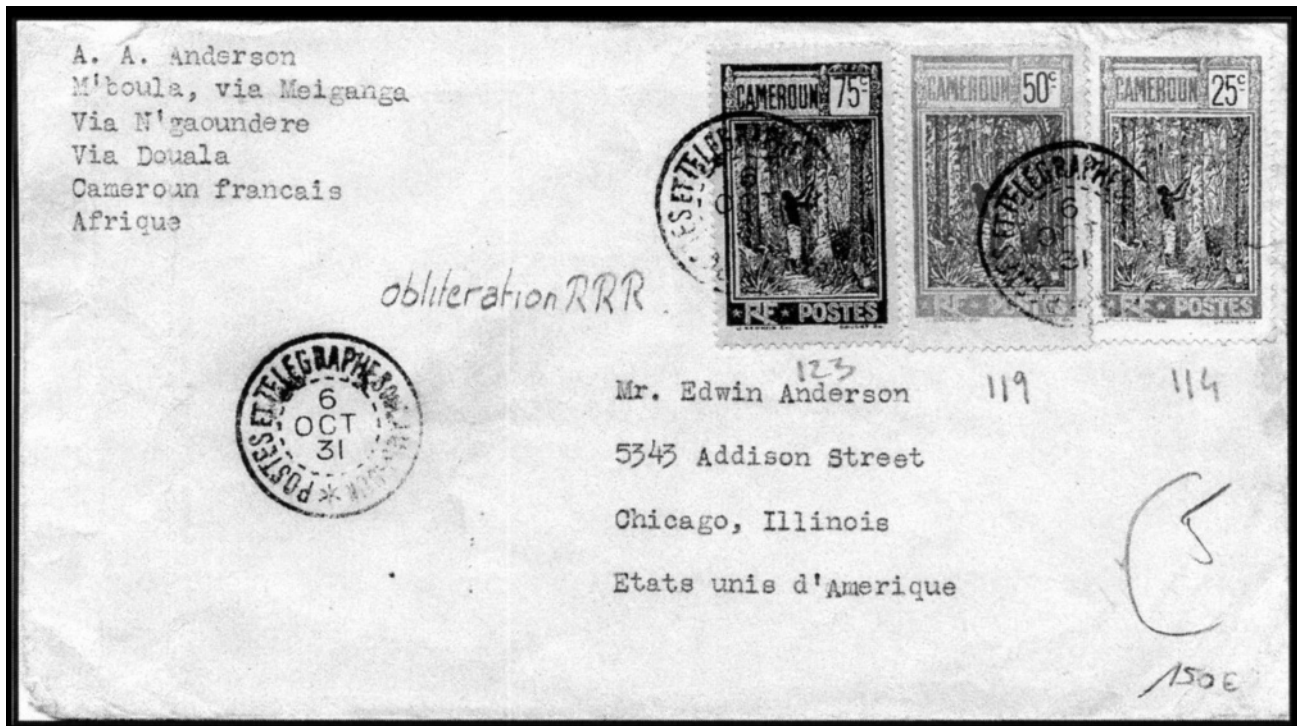


Figure 1. Postes et Telegraphes du Cameroun, 1917 through 1933.



Figure 2. Direction des Postes et Telegraphes Cameroun, 24 July 1929 through 27 October 1945.  
Small Gap (see text).



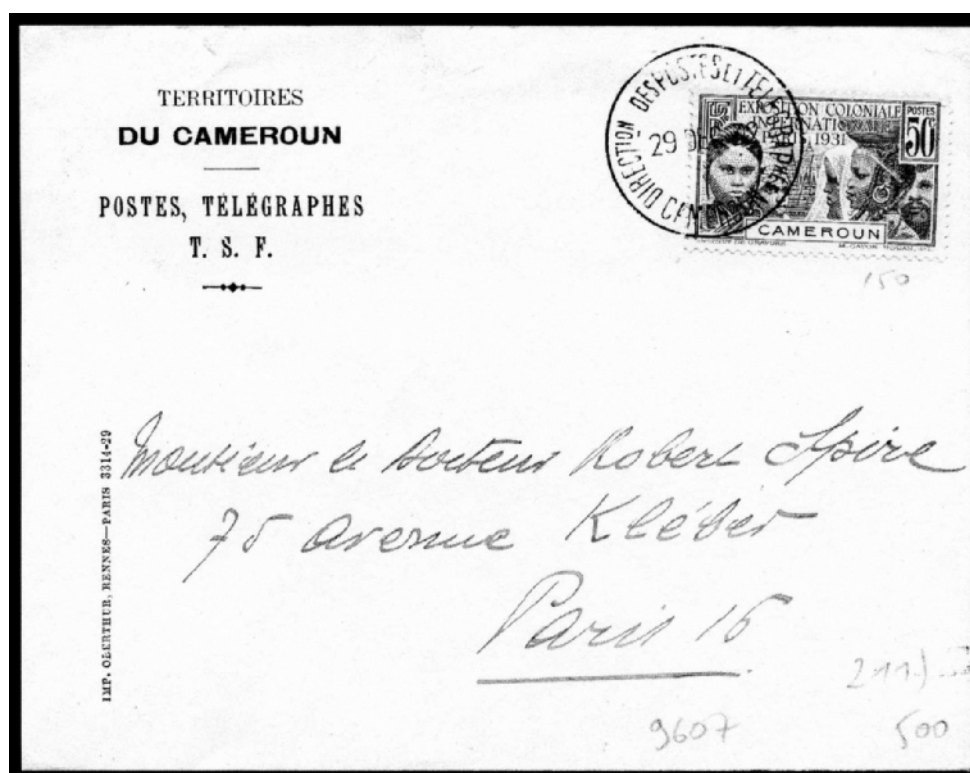


Figure 3. Direction des Postes et Télégraphes Cameroun, 19 September 1929 through 21 August 1938.  
Large Gap (see text).

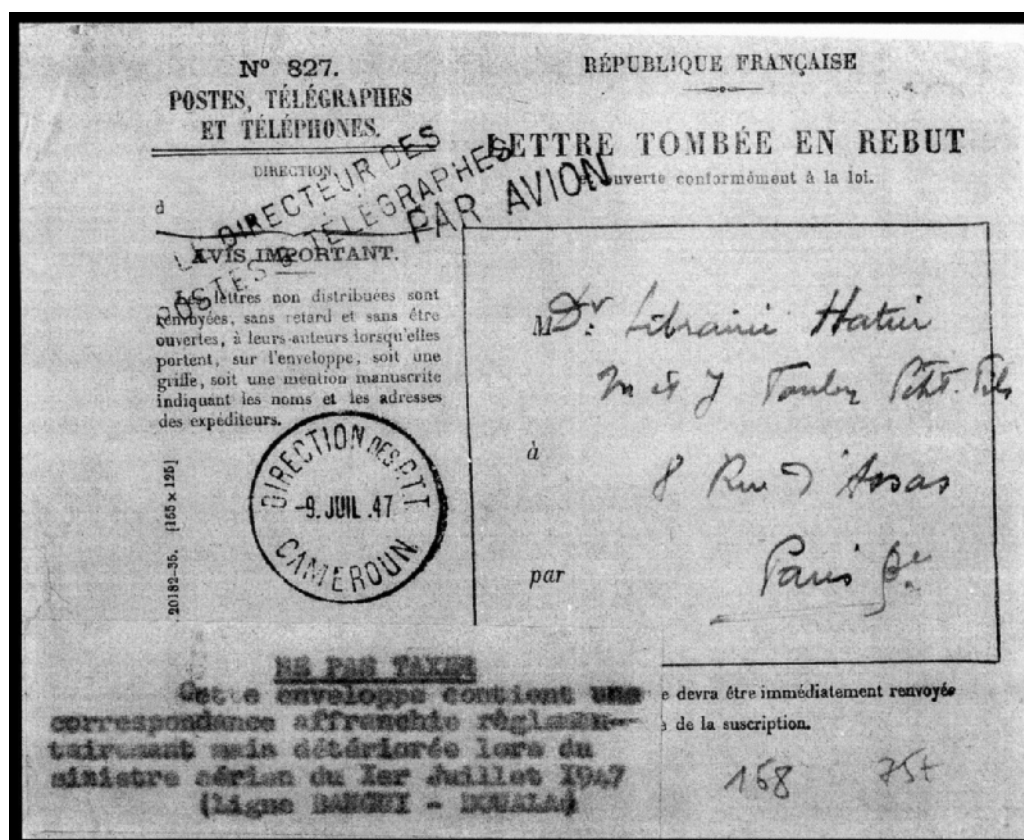


Figure 5. Direction des P.T.T. Cameroun, 9 April 1942 through 9 July 1947.  
Smaller letters with stops (see text).

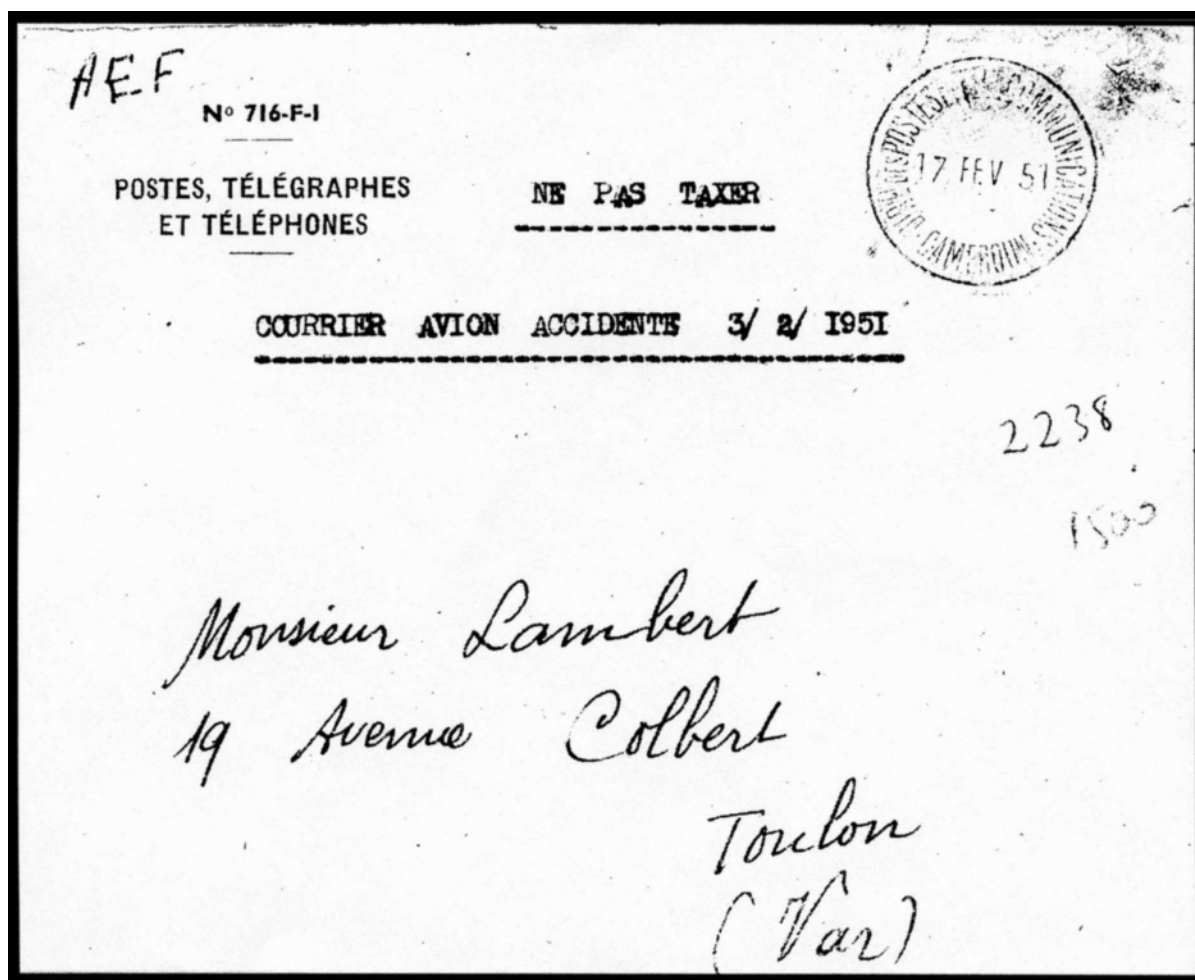


Figure 7. *Dirion* des Postes et Telecommunications Cameroun, 17 February 1951.

**GARFIELD-PERRY 2012**  
**Is less than six months away!**  
**Have you started planning?**



## President's Letter

After a delightfully warm summer here in northeast Ohio we have had the first taste of fall already. A couple of nights in the low 40s will quickly remind you that summer sports are just about over. So when turning the page to more indoor activities (not exclusively indoor, of course), philately comes to the fore.

This is a warning to get your exhibit entered **SOON** for our meeting at the Garfield-Perry March Party. The prospectus is on the club's website at <http://garfieldperry.org/>. Exhibits fill quickly at the March Party (several of our members, including me, can attest to this), and the club does not hold frames open for convening societies. So please take the time to get your exhibit into the show before the exhibits are closed. While it is Garfield-Perry policy not to announce the judges in advance, I selected them and can assure you that it will be an excellent panel. Even if you are not trying to win the Grand Award, you can still expect an excellent evaluation of your exhibit.

It is also time to volunteer to help Dave with our programs at the March Party. Those of you who attended in Chicago know that we had a great day of presentations. To duplicate that in Cleveland we need help. Consider as a first step working with Dave to brainstorm about topics and speakers, then calling some of them to solicit their appearance. That's one way in which you can help put on a great meeting.

As a northeast Ohio resident, I will be in charge of finding a good but reasonably priced restaurant for us to have dinner on Friday night. Unfortunately, the only French restaurants are expensive, and Garfield-Perry doesn't have a clubhouse where we could repeat the great meal we had in Chicago. There are several choices, so we should end up at a nice place. Watch for the results in our January FCP.

Another volunteer task is to maintain a dinner count for us. We will need to advise the restaurant in advance how many dinners we will need, as well as collecting the money. You have my promise to be an assistant for this, but we can always use help.

Dave has more tasks, generally not very time

consuming when split up among many members, so please shoot him an e-mail or call, [fcped@aol.com](mailto:fcped@aol.com) or 702-523-8650. We really rely on lots of you following the adage that many hands make light work.

Let's take a quick look back at Stampshow, too. As you may remember, we had five members in the Champion of Champions competition. The winner was not one of us, but our five all tied for second place. Our members were **Jamie Gough**, **Dave Herendeen**, **Al Kugel**, **Eliot Landau** (with two exhibits) and **Paul Larsen**. The Champion was a wonderful exhibit of classic Victoria, Australia, stamps. It was an interesting competition because there was a lot of speculation that one of the U.S. 1847 issue exhibits would be the winner. As it turned out, the judges apparently found enough wrong with each of them to leave them also tied for second place.

Why bring this up? Because there is no sure thing in exhibiting, just like so many other parts of life. I expect that there were many hopefuls in the C-of-C competition who thought one of the U.S. 1847 exhibits would be the winner. Classic U.S. material, wonderful quality, depth and breadth, and so on. But when the announcement was made the winner was probably more shocked than anyone. The moral of all of this is that exhibiting is fun, rewarding, and sometimes surprising! Take a chance and put your wonderful collection in the frames in March. You can't really predict where you will end up. The side benefits that also result, whether it's a deeper understanding of what you have, an appreciation for a different branch of our great hobby, or a critique of your presentation, all improve your enjoyment of your collection and our hobby.

Before signing off for this quarter, here's a reminder that dues notices will soon appear in your e-mail inbox or your USPS mailbox. However your notice arrives, it is very important that you renew from the first notice. It is time consuming and wasteful to have to send repeat alerts, and even more difficult if we have to call you. Please make it as easy as you can on our officer corps, all of whom serve without monetary compensation, and send your dues in right away.

## Off to Paris

David L. Herendeen, Editor

As I hurriedly rush to prepare this issue of the *FCP* and get it to press before leaving for France and England, I think about the amazing opportunities for learning about the philately that we all love so much.

As you have read in these pages before, Paris still has a vibrant philatelic community. It also has the famous *Rue Drouot*, the largest concentration of stamp dealers remaining anywhere in the world. And then, there is the outdoor bourse on *Avenue Gabriel* where one can find lower priced items than those often offered by the major dealers. There are even numerous dealers occupying shops in the *passages*, enclosed shopping areas that are the forerunners of modern-day malls.

During my stay in Paris, I will be having dinners with philatelic friends, spending at least one full day at the Musée de la Poste, visiting the dealers on Rue Drouot and much more.

I must say that any advanced collector of France and Colonies material must visit Paris to see first-hand the amazing array of material. It is a must for finding those last, elusive items in a collection. Any members planning to visit Paris who would like to know the “ropes” do not hesitate to contact me.

### Another FCPS Trip?

Relative to visiting Paris, I have been asked by at least two other members about another group trip to Paris. (“Group Trip” is meant very loosely, we have mutual philatelic activities but other than that, everyone is on their own.) Perhaps 2012 will be a good year for this. Our *FCPS* annual meeting and Exposition is in Cleveland in March, and the best time to visit Paris (philatelically speaking) is in November during the *Salon Philatélique d’Automne* show. The show this year is from 6-10 November. I do not know the dates for 2012 but I will try to find out on my trip.

Should you have any interest in this, please let

me know as soon as possible. These things typically take huge amounts of preparation to be successful. Our first such trip included five members and that seemed to be about right for group activities. If you come with a significant other, you may choose to have them join in with our events, or not, your choice.

### My Apologies

Long time member and *FCPS* contributor **Marty Bratzel** had been kind enough to provide your editor with nine (!) articles in 2008. After printing six of these, I simply forgot about them until being reminded gently by Marty recently. One of the remaining articles appears in the issue, and the remainder shall appear in quick order. Marty, please accept my apology.

### Only Six Months Now!

Our next show at Garfield Perry (Cleveland, OH) will take place in less than six months—March 2012. Are you thinking about your exhibit and planning to make a presentation to entertain and enlighten your fellow members. Again, I am always at the ready to help you in any way I can.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me, Ken Nilsestuen, Ed Grabowski or any of our other senior members. We are always willing to listen and proffer our advice.

As he used all of the space in his column, the President asks me to wish all of our members a happy holiday season on behalf of the officers and board of the *FCPS*. We hope to see many of you in Cleveland next March.

### Best Article Committee

Vice President **Norval “Ras” Rasmussen** is responsible for heading a committee that determines the best article for the *FCP*. He is looking for two members to serve on this committee. If you are interested, please contact Ras at:

[nrasmu@gmail.com](mailto:nrasmu@gmail.com)



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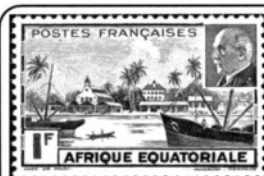
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e-mail : lugdunum.philatelie@wanadoo.fr



## French Colonies

Common design Types

**1938 Marie Curie** Type CD80 VFNH  
Set of 21 Fr Colonial stamps (no France) \$245

**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

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