

FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

October 2014
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1889 *L'Isle—Brusse I L. de Marseilles cancel* (see page 112)



DOUALA RADIO CANCEL (see page 116)

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Editorial

Norval Rasmussen

I have spent some time reviewing comments and suggestions made by a professional journalist, Barbara Rasmussen, regarding magazine layout and have begun instituting subtle changes in this journal. Dr. Rasmussen has a MS degree in journalism, a PhD in American history and reported for, and edited, the Morgantown newspaper for over ten years. I generally have ready access to her. As always I appreciate feedback from the readers.

In This Issue

Alan Morvay's article on censor markings on French Equatorial Africa is continued from last issue. **Stanley Luft** has written about his single frame fifteen centime type Sage exhibit. **Marty Bratzel** has submitted an article on the Cameroun telegraph cancels. I have restarted the "My Favorite Cover

Looking Forward

I am pleased to report that I already have some articles for the first issue of the next volume of the *France and Colonies Philatelist*. This does not mean that you should slow down with contributions!

Many thanks to Ralph DeBoard for his work on our website. It is developing very nicely.

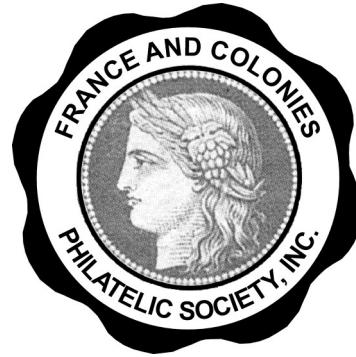
We meet next at OKYPEX in June 2015. Details are in President Nilsestuen's letter. I'll hope to see many of you there.

Edward Grabowski suggested a link to a short film, Jacques Tati's The School for Postmen. It

was on *The Guardian* website but unfortunately expired a bit ago. I found it at www.jimlangley.net/spin/Tati.html. I suspect many of our members would enjoy this humorous film.

In the Membership Notices there are 34 members being dropped for nonpayment of 2014 dues. Check this list carefully and if you are on it please send dues to Joel Bromberg at PO Box 102, Brooklyn, NY 11209-0102. Usually you wouldn't see your name on this list because July 2014 would have been your last issue of *France and Colonies Philatelist*. We've kept these names on the mailing list for this journal hoping some of you don't want dropped.

On a more hopeful level, I welcome 5 new members to the France and Colonies Philatelic Society. I hope you will find the association with fellow French area collectors meaningful.



Foreign Censorship on World War II French Equatorial Africa Mail Part Two: Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Trinidad, United States

Alan Morvay

NIGERIA was a major hub in West Africa that censored mail traveled through, oftentimes receiving Nigerian censor tape and/or censor cancels.

The May 1, 1943 Lambarene, French Equatorial Africa cover (figure 11) was sent by the renowned Dr. Albert Schweitzer. This cover was censored

with Nigerian censor tape and a Nigerian censor mark. It has a French Equatorial Africa *Contrôle Postale Commission A* cachet as well as two French Equatorial Africa transit cancels. It has a Brazil transit cancel and receiving cancel on the back.

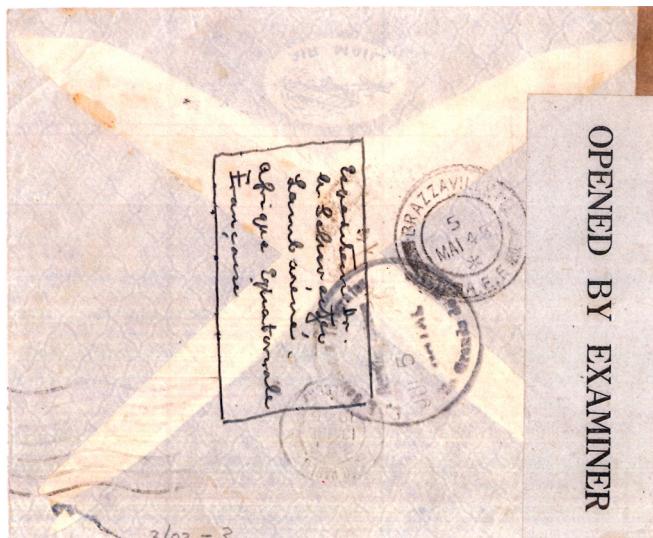


Figure 11. Lambarene to Brazil cover front and rear.



Figure 12. Fort Archambault to New York cover front and rear.



OPENED BY EXAMINER

Figure 13.

The April 16, 1941 Fort Archambault cover (figure 12) has a French Equatorial Africa *Controle Postale Commission F* cachet on the front and two Bangui transit cancels on the back. It has three French Cameroun censorships, which are the censor tape, the oval censor mark, and the censor circle with A1 inside.

The December 19, 1943 Libreville cover, figure 13, has a manila censor tape, an oval censor mark, and a *Controle Postale Commission C* cachet, which were all applied in French equatorial Africa. It has a Nigerian censor tape and a Nigerian censor mark. It has a January 9, 1944 Lome, To-

go transit cancel and a January 10, 1944 Anecho, Togo receiving cancel.

It seems the mail to well-known individuals or companies overseas such as Montgomery Ward periodically received less scrutiny when leaving West Africa as shown by the next two covers fronts.

The 1941 cover front from French Equatorial Africa (figure 14) only had a French Equatorial Africa *Controle Postale Commission D* cachet and a Nigerian moon shaped censor mark.

The December 23, 1940 Madindou, French Equa-



Figure 14. French Equatorial Africa to Chicago.



Figure 15. French Equatorial Africa to Chicago.

torial Africa cover front, figure 15, was opened and re-sealed with clear United States censor tape in the United States on its way to its final destination. The *Controle Postale Commission* cachet and the censor circle containing B2 were applied in transit in French Cameroun. The hexagon censor No. 2 was a Nigerian censor mark.

Walter Deijnckens presented Nigeria censor markings in the Belgian Congo Study Circle Bulletin 137 pages 17 to 19. These are reproduced in appendix C.

SOUTH AFRICA was a major hub for African censored mail. South Africa had troops as far north as Egypt on the east coast of Africa. Much



Figure 16. Front and rear of French Equatorial Africa to South Africa via Stanleyville cover.



Figure 17. French Equatorial Africa cover with both French Equatorial Africa and South African censor tapes.

correspondence was exchanged between the South African forces in East Africa and South Africa. Many planes and ships passed through South Africa with mail bound elsewhere so this mail transited through South Africa. South Africa had a large correspondence with its regional neighbors like Belgian Congo, a huge country in Central Africa. Elizabethville in the southern province of Katanga, seemed to be more a part of the South African region rather than the northern region near French Congo.

The December 22, 1941 Mobaye, French Equatorial Africa cover (figure 16) has a faint French Equatorial Africa *Controle Postale Commission E* cachet. A January 1, 1942, Stanleyville, Belgian Congo transit cancel was applied as the cover

traveled through Belgian Congo to South Africa where South African censor tape was applied.

The 1943 French Equatorial Africa cover in figure 17 has a French Equatorial Africa censor tape, a South African censor tape, and a South African censor mark.

Walter Deijnckens' presentation of South Africa censor tape and markings in the Belgian Congo Study Circle Bulletin 140 page 13 and pages 15 to 16 are in appendix D.

SUDAN. Mail routes in Africa changed depending on military activity in different parts of the world. Some mail from the central east Africa region traveled through Aba in the north eastern corner of Belgian Congo and up the Nile River to their final destinations. Aba was one of twenty censor stations in the Belgian Congo. A significant portion of this mail received Sudan censor tape when crossing from Belgian Congo into Sudan.

The 1944 French Equatorial Africa cover (figure 18) has a plain white censor tape, an oval censor mark, and a faint *Controle Postale Commission* cachet applied in French Equatorial Africa. It has an April 13, 1941, Brazzaville transit cancel. After crossing the river the cover received an April 15, Leopoldville, Belgian Congo transit cancel and later, on April 22, an Aba transit cancel. This cover has the green and white Sudan censor tape, the blue and white Egyptian censor tape, and a circular purple Egyptian censor mark number 59.

At the September 1982 meeting of the Sudan Study Group, Lieutenant Colonel John F. Inglesfield-Watson and Howard C. Bowyer presented a survey entitled "Sudan World War II 1939 - 1945 Civil Censorship." Six types of Sudan censor tapes and censor markings were identified and are listed in appendix E.

The green and white Sudan censor tapes types I



Figure 18. French Equatorial Africa cover to Switzerland via Sudan.

through IV can be found used, on French Equatorial Africa covers. Type VI white with black letters censor tape was used in the Sudan - Eritrea campaign on the eastern horn of Africa. I would not expect to find French Equatorial Africa covers censored with the Sudan type VI censor tape.

TRINIDAD. During World War II mail sent to the United States from Belgian Congo, French equatorial Africa, and other west African countries, was often censored in Trinidad before arriving in Miami. There was a huge variation in the way this mail was censored. Some mail only had one censor tape from Trinidad, the place of origin

or the destination. A few covers even came through the mail with no censor tape but only censor markings.

The May 15, 1942, Libreville cover (figure 19) has a French Equatorial Africa *Controle Postale Commission C* cachet, a May 2, 1942, Leopoldville transit cancel, and the United States receiving cancel on the back. This cover only received Trinidad censor tape.

The February 16, 1942 Fort Sibut cover in figure 20 has the Trinidad censor tape and the French Equatorial Africa plain white censor tape. It has French Equatorial Africa *Controle Postale Commission A* cachet and oval censor mark.

Similar to the last cover, the September 26, 1942, Stanleyville cover, figure 21, was censored at its origin with Belgian Congo censor tape. The

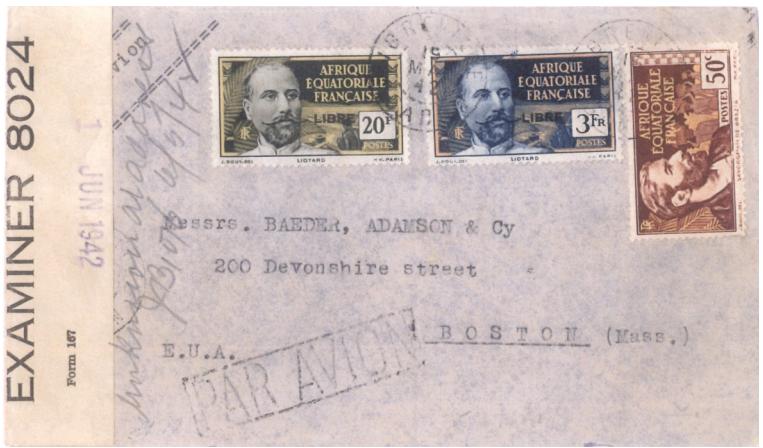


Figure 19. Libreville to Boston, censored in Trinidad front and rear.

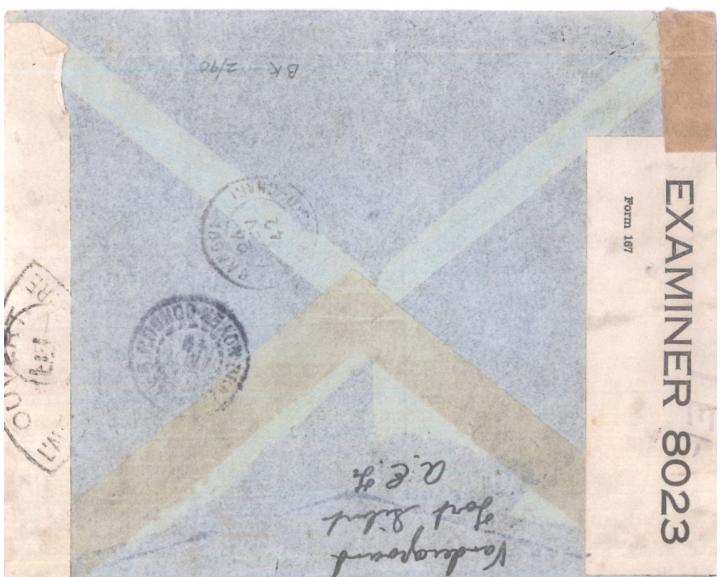
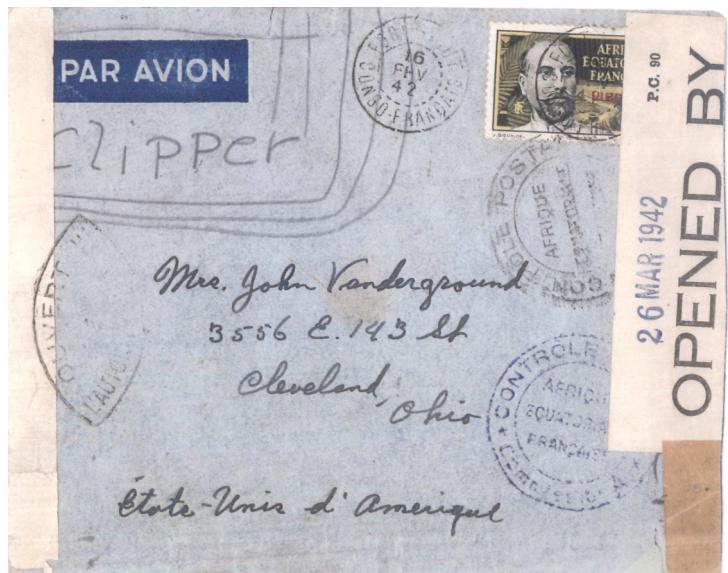


Figure 20. Fort Sibut to Ohio censored in Trinidad Front and rear.

backside has a Leopoldville transit cancel. It received Trinidad censor tape in transit to its United States destination.

The French Cameroun cover, figure 22, has the same Trinidad censor tape and identical 8043 censor number as the previous cover. The March 3, 1942, M'Balmayo cover has a French Cameroun censor tape, an oval censor mark, and a *Controle Postale Commission A Territoire du Cameroun* cachet. This cover was sent directly to Lagos, Nigeria, where it received a March 9, 1942, transit cancel. Since this location was too far north from Leopoldville, this cover joined the clipper mail



Figure 21. Stanleyville to Missouri censored in Trinidad

from the Lagos leg of the journey.

Some mail transited through Leopoldville. The military cover with the British stamps (figure 23 on page 84) originated in Lebanon where it received Lebanese censor tape, a faint Lebanese censor mark, and a partial *Postes Aux Armee* transit cancel used by the French military in Lebanon. This cover has a July 14, 1942, Brazzaville transit cancel and a faint French Equatorial Africa *Controle Postale Commission A* cachet. It had a 3¢ United States postage due tape applied in New York City before it was forwarded to its final destination where an August 26, 1942, receiving



Figure 22. French Cameroun to Missouri censored in Trinidad front above, reverse top of next column.

cancel was applied. It probably was not censored in Trinidad because it had already been censored in Lebanon and French Equatorial Africa.

Walter Deijnckens presented a compilation of Trinidad censor tape and markings information in the Belgian Congo Study Circle Bulletin 143 pages 27 to 28. These are in appendix F.

A much smaller number of covers were censored in Bermuda where the letters I/C were applied to the same censor tape instead of I/E used in Trinidad.

UNITED STATES censorship is found throughout the world on a large portion of the mail.

One of the most common United States censor tapes is white with the black letters "Examined By" as shown on the February 16, 1942, Brazza-



Figure 23. Lebanon to New York via Leopoldville and Lagos.
Censored in Trinidad.

ville cover, figure 24. This cover also has a French Equatorial Africa *Controle Postale Commission A* cachet.

Clear censor tapes with the black letters "Examined By" were a common United States censor tape as shown on the October 20, 1942, Bangui cover. It has a French Equatorial Africa censor tape, an oval censor mark, the censor circle with A1 inside and a November 9, 1942, Brazzaville transit cancel.

Walter Deijnckens presented United States censor marks in the Belgian Congo Study Circle Bulletin 143 page 22-23, which are printed in appen-

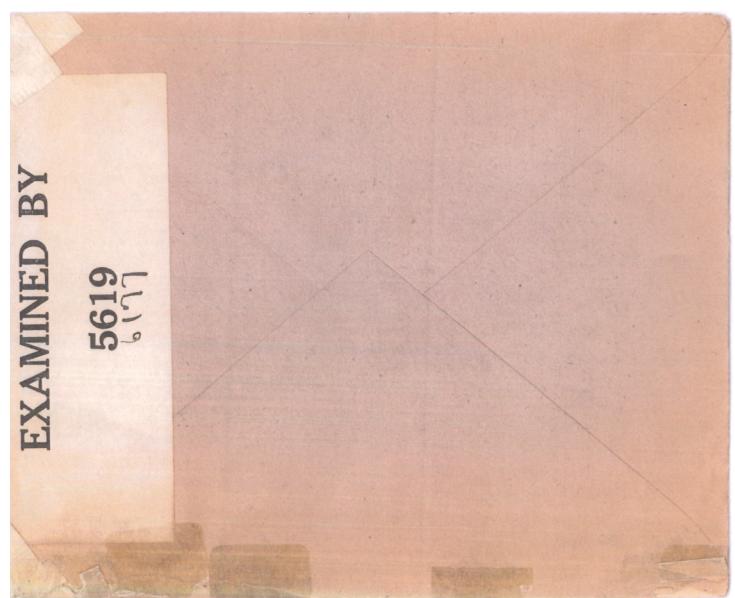


Figure 24, Brazzaville to California cover front. U. S. censored.

dix G.

The April 8, 1943 registered Brazzaville, French Equatorial Africa postcard, figure 26, has a circular United States censor mark. These censor marks were often used on postcards where the correspondence was easily visible.

Censored mail sent to French Equatorial Africa is harder to find than censored mail sent from French Equatorial Africa. The November 25, 1943, United States cover in figure 27 has the

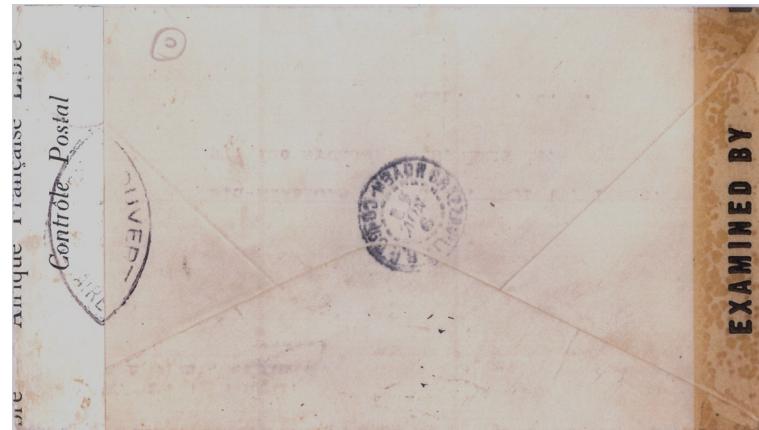


Figure 25. Bangui to Ohio with clear U. S. censor tape.

clear United States censor tape and censor markings from three different countries. The rectangular censor griffe "Censura Militair. Territorios Espanoils del Golfo de Guinea" and the February 7, 1944, Santa Isabel cancel were applied in Spanish Guinea (Fernando Po). The crown censor mark, the February 29, 1944, Calabar cancel and the March 4, 1944, Lagos cancel were all applied in Nigeria. It has a French Equatorial Africa *Contrôle Postale Commission E* cachet and an April 13, 1944, Bangui receiving cancel.



Figure 26. Brazzaville to New York with U. S. censor marking.



Figure 27. United States to French Equatorial Africa.

Appendix C

Nigeria

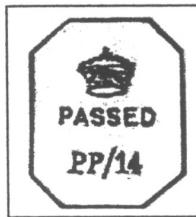
Nigerian Censor Marks

The following Nigerian censor marks were compiled and reported by Walter Deijnckens in the Belgian Congo Study Circle Bulletin 137.

Examination of the 19 covers originating from the Belgian Congo along with other items reported has confirmed the existence of the following Nigerian censor marks and labels. These have been classified as *Types* in accordance with those published previously by the West African Study Circle, 1999. It is acknowledged that minor design and feature differences exist, creating *type* sub divisions.



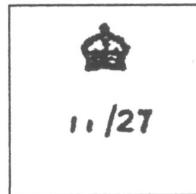
Type 4C



Type 5



Type 4E



Type 6 (unframed)

Types 5 and 6 replaced 'Type 1'.

- Type 5 normally used on opened mail.
 - Type 6 normally used on unopened mail.
- PP prefix code letters, allocated to Nigeria.

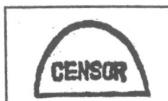
Hand-stamp Censor marks



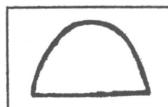
Type 1A



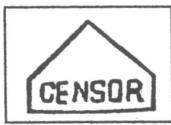
Type 1C



Type 2



Type 2A



Type 3



Type 3A



Type 4A/B

Types 4A, B and C – thought to be a censors 'personal number' verifying 'opened by'.

Type 4A – Recorded use on route:

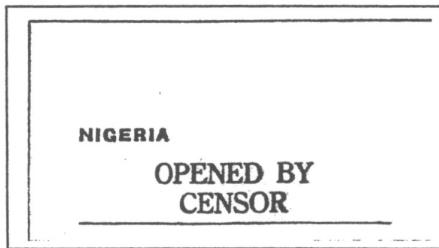
i) Elisabethville → Lagos. May 1942 (Figure 7)



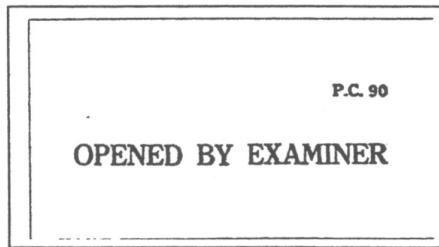
Type 7

Censor Labels

Only two types have been noted in this study but others are known to exist.



Label – Type 3



Label – Type 4

Appendix D

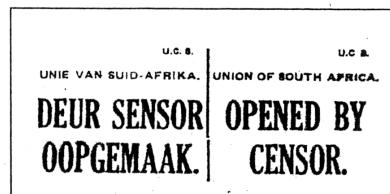
South Africa

Censor Labels – all officially classified as ‘U.C. 8.’

The various 'Type style' of label is a particular feature of South African censorship. We have seen 7 distinguishable types, to which a **Type number** is being given. These 'Types' are arbitrary and will only coincidentally coincide with any other published data on this topic, but they have all been classified so that any future additions can be added. All use red lettering and this varies in shade. However the majority of examples supplied by members were black and white photocopies and the reproductions in red are only approximate to the original shade. It is not therefore possible to be specific in describing the colour precisely.

Type U2/#1. 'No ref to label size, 2 lines of instructional text'

'OPENED BY CENSOR' Letter height 7.25mm
Examples seen: 3
Usage: 1940 → 1941 in Cape Town



Type 'U2/#1'

Type S3/#2. Small, 3 lines of instructional text'

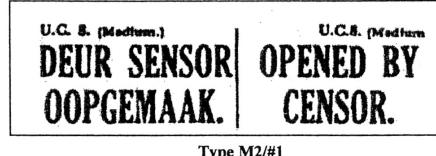
Letter height 'OPENED BY CENSOR' = 4.75mm
Examples seen: 1
Usage date: March 1945
Route: Elisabethville → Sweden



Type S3/#2

Type M2/#1. 'Medium, 2 lines of instructional text'

Letter height 'OPENED BY CENSOR' = 7.25mm
Examples seen: 3
Usage date: 1945
Used in Cape Town and Johannesburg



Type M2/#1

Type L2/#1. Large, 2 lines of instructional text'

Letter height 'OPENED BY CENSOR' = 7.25mm
Examples seen: 19
Usage date: April 1941 → Aug. 1943
Used in Cape Town mostly



Type L2/#1

Type L3/#1. 'Large, 3 lines of instructional text'

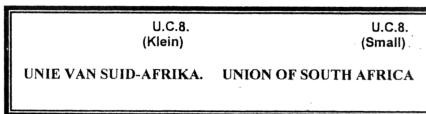
Letter height 'OPENED BY CENSOR' = 7.25mm
Examples seen: 3
Usage date: Oct. 1943 → April 1944
Used in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Pretoria.
Letter height 'OPENED BY CENSOR' = 7.25mm



Type L3/#1

Type S2/#1. 'Small, 2 lines of instructional text'

Letter height 'OPENED BY CENSOR' = 7.25mm
Examples seen: 15
Usage date: July 1940 → March 1942
Several examples used in Cape Town
No examples identifiable as Johannesburg



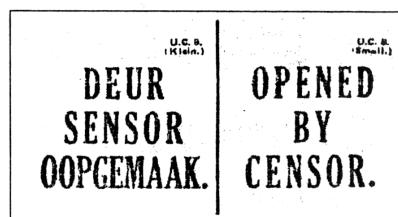
▼



Type S2/#1

Type S3/#1. Small, 3 lines of instructional text'

Letter height 'OPENED BY CENSOR' = 7.25mm
Examples seen: 12
Usage date: March 1942 → October 1943



Type S3/#1

South Africa

Of all the countries studied in this series, South Africa understandably features most commonly and the summary that follows is based on the examination of 68 individual covers. As a generalisation, the vast majority of letters have been opened and then sealed using one of several *similar in style*, labels. Usually, though not always, these have been over-stamped with a '2 Gazelles' censor handstamp – typically as illustrated in Figure 5. These vary in colour, typically violet, rose and shades of vermillion through to magenta. Occasionally, manuscript censor initials or numbers have also been added.

The letter situated at the base of the '2 Gazelles' stamp indicates where the censor opened the correspondence - 'A' indicates Cape Town 'B' Johannesburg, 'C' Durban and 'F' Pretoria.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.



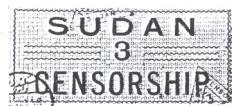
Figure 7.



Figure 8.

Appendix E

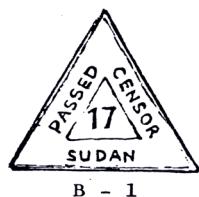
Sudan



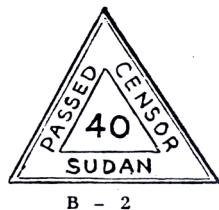
CENSOR HANDSTAMP TYPES



A



B - 1



B - 2



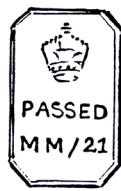
B - 3



B - 4

PASSED BY CENSOR

C



D



E

Appendix F

Trinidad

Trinidad

I.E.-

12mm x (4mm height)

I.E.-

18mm x (7mm height)

I.E./

13mm x (8mm height)

Type 1

Type 2

Type 3

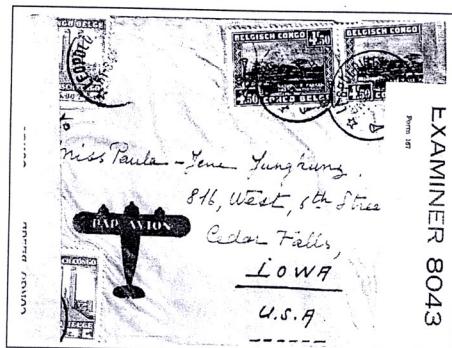


Figure 18

Trinidad was allocated 'IE' as its National identity censor mark with numbers in the 8000 range. The mark varies in size and style. These have been classified arbitrarily as 'Types 1, 2 and 3' based on their overall dimensions and lettering style. (The dimensions indicated of the 'IE/-' mark commence and finish at the outermost points of the mark including the final inclined or horizontal stroke.)

As a British Colony, 'P.C.90, (Form 167) OPENED BY EXAMINER #' labels were the most widely used and the 'Examiner number' was incorporated into the design - though the text 'Form 167' is sometimes omitted. Rather than attempting to describe the variants of these (or the 'IE/-' Trinidad identity marks, the reader is asked to study the illustrations provided.)

Figure 19

P.C. 90 Form 167
OPENED BY: 72 x 7mm
EXAMINER: 45mm

Label 'Type A'

IE/- 'Type 1'



Figure 19

Figure 20

P.C. 90 Form 167
OPENED BY: 72 x 7mm
EXAMINER: 45mm

Label 'Type A'

IE/- 'Type 2'



Figure 20

Figure 21

P.C. 90 'Form 167'
OPENED BY EXAMINER:
Dimensions vary 78 to 80 x 6mm

Label 'Type B'

I.E. / 'Type 3'

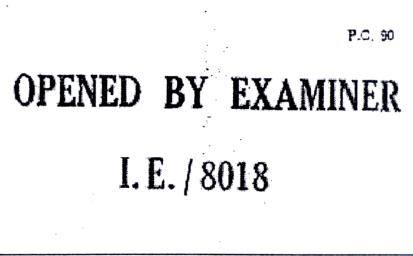


Figure 21

Appendix G

United States

Censor marks and labels were first seen on mail from the Belgian Congo that travelled by the 'Clipper planes' on flights from Leopoldville to New York. These flights started in December 1941 travelling via Lagos in Nigeria, Bathurst in Gambia, Natal and Belém in Brazil, Port of Spain in Trinidad and Bermuda.

Censor marks applied in Nigeria have previously been dealt with and those of Gambia will appear in a future edition of the Bulletin.

Only 2 covers have been seen with Brazilian transit censor marks and neither are from Natal or Belém. It is known that Belém used censor identification marks with 'Rn' or 'P.A.'

Figures 1 and 2.

Typically, mail flown directly into the U.S.A. was opened, censored, resealed and received one or more of different censorship marks.

4 examples of labels made from paper have been recorded (Figure 1) but the tape used for resealing was usually cellophane (Figure 2). The examiner's number is an integral part of the label design.

Figures 3 and 4.

Additionally or alternatively, the circular U.S. Censorship 'mark' was applied, which in turn was then overprinted by the censors number - either in manuscript or by a 'hand stamp'.

We know of the following 'manuscript' and 'handstamp' numbers being used in New York:

Manuscript:

5321, 5585, 6220, 6458, 6774, 7417, 9827, 9829, 9837.

Handstamp:

5173, 5864, 6948.

The circular marks seen in this study were used during the period from December 1942 to December 1944, and vary slightly in diameter (23-24mm).

Figure 5.

A 2 line PASSED BY / CENSOR mark has been recorded on a letter to Nashville, originating from Luebo and with an Elisabethville transit, 10 April 1942. It has not been confirmed whether this mark is American in origin or not.

PASSED BY
CENSOR

Figure 5.

Figures 6 and 7 – Can anyone provide additional or confirmatory information on these marks?

Two 'out of the ordinary' marks have been seen, both of which are illustrated here.

Belgian Congo → Washington D.C.
N.Y. Censor label #31391

The month was June but the year date is not clear but probably 1944 or 1945.

The cover received the 'mark' shown in figure 6 and by conjecture, this may be an abbreviation for –

'Washington' DC / from Foreign Country

This second 'mark' appears on a cover from the Belgian Congo, addressed to the American Embassy in Moscow, and has not been recognisably censored. The postage stamps were not originally cancelled at the town from which the letter originates but were subsequently defaced by two manuscript strokes.

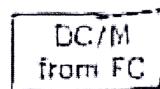


Figure 6

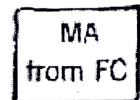


Figure 7.

Acknowledgements:

I would like to thank Heinrich Dieckmann, Walter Deijnckens, Brian Gardner, Stanley Luft, and Peter Rieman for their help in the preparation of this article.

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FORMULATING A ONE-FRAME EXHIBIT: The Saga of the "The 15 centimes Sage Goes to Sea"

Stanley J. Luft (N° 915)

Some of you may know that I've been downsizing and have sold some of my best postal history exhibits. But I'm retaining my 15 centimes Sages ("Peace and Commerce"), now at 18+ exhibit frames and still growing wherever possible. I had made it into three exhibits: (1) Stamps and Stationery, (2) Rates, (3) Marcophilic. But one cannot show nationally more than two multi-framers at anyone time. In any case, they are extremely heavy to carry, expensive to show, and fatiguing to mount and dismount. Additionally, I've lost interest in exhibiting after some 40 years of mainly enviable success. But not quite yet! So what's a fellow gonna do?

The obvious alternative is to do a one-framer (OFE). But after considerable trial and error and attempting to show some rather mediocre OFEs in the past, I learned that it's extremely difficult to assemble a true OFE, that is one that in addition to containing exceptional material, tells, using the material therein, just about everything there is out there, within 15 pages plus title page. Or in other words, most OFEs one sees at shows are not true OFEs, and wiser and more experienced judges can recognize that they are really only the highlights from available multi-frame material, and should downgrade them accordingly.

Being a retired judge, though frankly wise and experienced only in segments of French philately, I was at first and for quite a long time, perplexed by the near impossibility of doing a OPE with the material at hand. I finally decided upon a limited showing of French maritime covers. Then I waited seemingly forever, placing ever higher bids on

what was being offered 'on 15 centimes sage covers by a goodly number of French auction and mail dealers. After many years, I was able to amass 27 different covers going to and from Marseille and Corsica and French North Africa. I already owned that wonderful set of handbooks by Raymond Salles (some autographed to me), or else obtained from James Bendon, on the vast and intricate subject of French maritime mail.

Referring constantly to Salles' volume 1, I determined what limiting factors I needed to justify making a "true" OFE that could satisfy, or at least mollify, a philatelic jury. So I came up with the following parameters for me to follow faithfully and absolutely:

- (1) The covers must be limited to the normal Sage -use 1876-1901 time period;
- (2) The covers were limited to showing a single 15 centimes Sage, first gray (Scott 69) then blue (Scott 92 and 103) and solely in domestic use; other values permissible if higher rates had to be prepaid, inasmuch as 15 centimes only paid the postcard rate until 1 May 1878, when it became the letter rate;
- (3) The covers had to be limited to Marseille departure or arrivals, from and to Corsica and French North Africa. Algeria only, at first, then Tunisia, invaded in 1881 and made a French protectorate in 1883., Morocco was added from 1906-on; but parameter N° 1 places it outside the pale.

All this should satisfy the showing of a true OFE. Remember that examples of all possibilities must be shown that satisfy any such parameters but not of all possible material in existence! If that

were the case, only Marseille covers to and from a single Corsican (or North African) port might perhaps make for a truer OFE. Or I could spend several lifetimes attempting to do so.

But I think you'd rather peruse some covers, rather than read that boring stuff which you will probably never put to use. But once again I need to advise that, the more limited the scope and range of your exhibit, the closer it will reach your goal—if that is what you might be trying for.

OK, now for some specific information from the exhibit. In the last quarter of the 19th Century, Corsica had four named ports where mail was posted and received. Algeria also had four named ports. In addition, we had Tunis in Tunisia and Port-Vendres in the extreme southern Mediterranean part of France, just north of Spain. Covers to or from Marseille are shown from all ten ports. All are from the 1876–1901 period. And all bear 15 centimes Sages as their sole or at least principal value. So far so good, far as my parameters are concerned.

The date stamps for this period bear (1) *Bateau à Vapeur* or abbreviations thereof (= steamer), a legacy from the Golden Age of French ship markings on Classic and pre-stamp covers. It was replaced slowly (if not at all) from 1880-on by (2) *Ligne de* or abbreviations thereof (= line of), plus the name of a port—whether Marseille or of the other terminus. I used nine covers, on pages 2–6, to take care of (1) and (2), above, and the four Corsican ports.

For North Africa, 18 covers on pages 7–15 take care of business at the four Algerian ports plus an 1881 cover from pre-Protectorate Tunis. The Port-Vendres cover originated in Algiers (not Corsica), which is why it's in the African "section". The final page (p. 16) holds two Marseille "moveable box" covers—one labeled *Boite Mobile*, the other just with the abbreviation B.M. They are covers to North Africa and make for a handy conclusion to

the exhibit for they fit all my three parameters perfectly.

Figure 1 shows an 1877 card (year stated on message side) date stamped Bastia / Vap. a Vap. The gray stamp is used correctly, being that 15c was the then card rate. I must admit that it's my earliest cover from Corsica. Some day I may locate an 1876 one. Or I may be permitted to ignore Year 1876.

Figure 2 is my best Corsican, an 1889 cover from the very seldom used *L'Isle-Brusse I L. de Mar-*



Figure 1. Bastia / Vap. A Vap. Post card.



Figure 2. 1889 *L'Isle-Brusse I L. de Marseilles* cancel



Figure 3. 1877 cover to Philippeville, Algeria.



Figure 4. Alger a' Port Vendres cancel.

seille port and line, in its final year of existence. Showing a *L'Isle-Brousse* should be a plus.

Figure 3 is again an 1877 cover, and my second earliest North African. This *Marseille / Bateau a Vap.* went to Philippeville, Algeria and has an arrival back stamp. Do remember that, until May 1, 1878, the letter rate was 25c, hence the needed and added 10 centimes stamp.

Figure 4 is the only octagonal date stamp used in the service and time frame. *Alger a' Port-Vendres*, served only and occasionally between August 1880 and July 1881 and only outbound from

Algiers to Marseille. That's a tough item to locate, and set me back a goodly sum. It was also the 27th cover I obtained, making the exhibit possible to become a reality.

Figure 5 shows that indeed, I have a Tunis cover from the period, dated December 1881, it traveled from Bone to Marseille, on the *Marseille / Ligne de Tunis* line (Bone being the closest port to Tunis). That date stamp was used only up to 1881, having been made before the French invasion. Being able to note this is another plus, indicating historical knowledge.

Figure 6 was applied upon Marseille arrival on the *Marseille / Ligne d'Alger* line. At first glance,



Figure 5. Tunis to Marseilles via Bone.



Figure 6. Marseille / Ligne d'Alger cancel.

it might be a rather commonplace cover, but do look at the address. It went to a junior officer on the annual Grand Manoeuvres in northern France. Nineteenth Century Grand Manoeuvres markings are well regarded by some collectors. Moreover the back stamp shows a clear 12 Sept. 97 receiving mark of military-postal bureau *76*, previously unrecorded for the 1897 war games. A very minor point but still an indication of postal knowledge.

Finally, Figure 7 shows the Marseille / B. M. 1882 date stamp and the back stamp shows arrival at Algiers. The knowledge that you can relate about what you are exhibiting is extremely important, whether it is philatelic, or historical, or perhaps also military. Just don't overblow it. At the same time, do get it right! Overly long, detailed writeups can lead to fatal errors! I work hard at keeping mine as brief as possible. "Just the facts Ma'am."

Finally I did show the OFE at my home show in May 2014. I had estimated that with but 27 covers and other possible faults that I had failed to notice, it would get a weak Vermeil. Instead, it obtained a first-time-out Gold, though not the top OFE at the show. I intend to keep searching for additional material, for there is space for judicious overlapping of covers. Next time out (if there is to

be a next time), it may slip to Vermeil. One never knows with philatelic juries!

Help Wanted

Assistant editor with knowledge of modern France philately. Duties include soliciting, reviewing and critiquing articles submitted to this journal.

Contact the editor if interested.

nrasmu@gmail.com

304-292-7652 or 304-290-6117



Figure 7. Marseille B. M. 1882 date stamp on a cover to Algiers.

DOUALA CAMEROUN TELEGRAPH AND RADIO

M. P. Bratzel, Jr.

Most postmarks relate to the P (Postes) in PTT. Depicted below are five Douala Cameroun marks that relate to one of the T's (telegraph).

The radio telegram in Figure 1 has two seldom-seen marks. The one reads Douala Telegraphe, the other Douala Radio-O.C (ondes courtes = short wave). The existence of both was previously reported, but neither was illustrated (Ref. 1). The observed dates of use of the telegraph mark are May 19, 1935 through April 9, 1944. The observed dates of use of the Radio-O.C mark are May 19, 1935 through January 1, 1944.

The cable telegram in Figure 2 also has two scarce marks. The one reads Douala Cameroun Telegra-

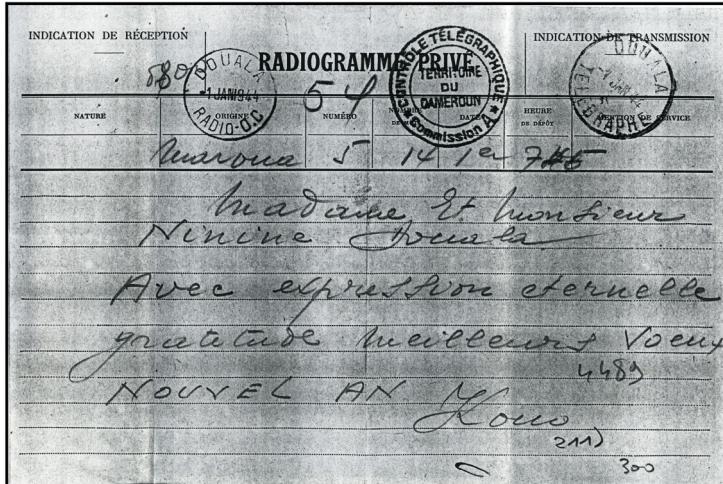


Figure 1. Radiogramme with Douala Telegraphe and Douala Radio-O.C. cancels.

phe and the other *Douala Cables Francais*. The only observed date of use for both is July 26, 1951.

The official letter in Figure 3 has a mark that reads Douala Radio. The return address is *Direction des Transmissions de l'Afrique Française Libre*. The observed dates of use are November 27, 1942 through April 11, 1944.

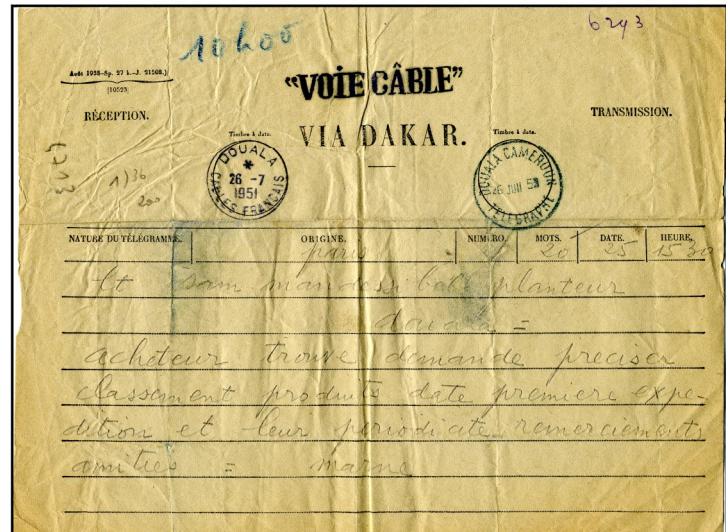


Figure 2. Cablegram with Douala Cameroun Telegraphe and Douala Cables Francais cancels.



Figure 3. Douala Radio cancel on an official letter.

Additional examples of all five marks would be most welcome.

Reference

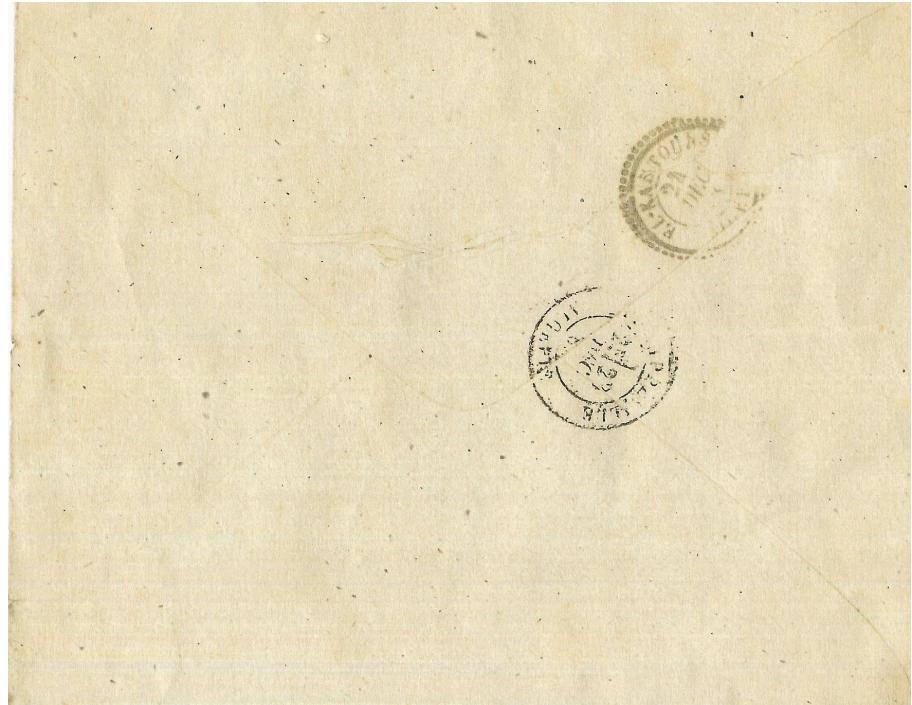
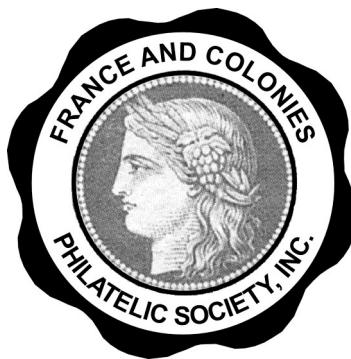
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My Favorite Cover

Alan Morvay

My favorite cover is an early internally travelled Algeria cover with two scarce town cancels from towns with populations of just under one thousand inhabitants each. The post office in Gastonville was opened in 1860. The post office in El Kantours was only open from 1867 to 1872.

This cover sent on December 22, 1868 from Gastonville has a circular town cancel and a numeral GC cancel 5031 on the front. It transited through Phillipsville, which was the largest city in the area, where it received a December 23, 1868 transit cancel on the back of the envelope. It arrived in EL Kantours on December 24, 1868 where a receiving cancel was applied.



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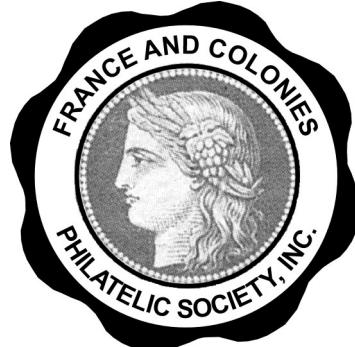
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Tunisian Parcel Post

Norval Rasmussen



Before January 1, 1892 the Bone-Guelma Railroad Company and the Company General Transatlantic provided parcel post service. In 1892 the post office took over the service. Parcel post fees were paid in cash until 1906 when the first parcel post stamps were issued. The first series of six values were used from 1906 until 1927. The shipping label shown above conveyed three parcels weighing ten kilograms from Sfax to Paris. The right portion was removed and given to the sender as a receipt. The center portion listed the provided service and the left portion was for the recipient.

President's letter

Gosh, here comes fall again. I certainly hope we have more nice weather before winter arrives, but things seem to be chilling rather rapidly. The good news is, of course, that winter is the time for us to be indoors playing with our stamps, however we define that activity for ourselves.

Looking forward to next summer, plans are afoot for our next society meeting at OKPEX 2015. Dates are Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20, 2015. Because it is a two-day show, we will be a little cramped for time. But that doesn't mean we won't still have some fun and some education.

The show hotel is a Sheraton, whose reservation number is 1-405-455-1800, connected to the Reed Conference Center in Midwest City, OK. I just made my reservation, and I suggest you hurry to get the reduced OKPEX rate. Let me make a comment, though. The show guarantees a minimum room count. The rate is \$99 per night plus taxes, which can run 12-18%, depending on how rapacious the local tax authorities are. For OKPEX to avoid unexpected costs they need us to re-reserve rooms at that rate through the hotel reservations line. Rooms reserved through priceline or other websites do not count against the guarantee. This is because the hotel makes little or no money on those deeply discounted rooms. So to help the show (and any other shows you attend), please make your reservations at the regular room rate. Find a friend and you still can cut the price in half.

More importantly, we will need exhibits and presenters. The exhibits can take time to prepare (remounting one of mine took me six months instead of the three weeks I had anticipated, and I



am retired!), so I encourage you to get started. Of course, we welcome exhibits that have been out before as well as new ones.

We also need presenters. If you have been to one of our meetings in the past, you know the format – a 20-45 minute PowerPoint presentation in a very informal setting. Folks ask questions and offer comments, so a great deal of information is spread around. I don't think anyone, presenter, commenter or listener, has gone away embarrassed. So let's see some interesting pictures of stamps, covers, ephemera, travelogues, and more. It's probably easier to do a presentation than an exhibit.

Our website is moving along slowly. Apparently, uploading content is time consuming, so Ralph DeBoard, the person who is currently taking charge of this, has to find quiet evenings when he can sit by his computer and add scanned files to the site. You will see old issues of our journal appear as he gets this done.

What else is happening? I have attended several stamp shows in the past couple of months: Omaha, Hartford and Indianapolis. Attendance was just okay in Omaha (also a two day show) and Indianapolis, but it was excellent in Hartford. Exhibits were interesting and colorful at all three shows. The show committees, dealers and attendees were all in a pretty good mood. Our hobby seems to be doing well in some places, less so in others.

That sends me off in another direction – my thoughts on the trends in philately. I will try to avoid politics, but it is almost impossible to discuss economic trends affecting our hobby without

at least touching on the issue. I will try to be gentle.

Let's agree that the trend in organized philately is fewer new collectors, fewer show dealers (the cart, not the horse, I think), and fewer society members in many organized groups. Can we also agree that philately is a hobby that requires disposable income? And while the urge is certainly stronger in some than others, many humans have a desire to acquire, whether it is cars, money, stamps, coins, books, spouses, antiques, or something else. Those are my underlying assumptions.

What are some of the megatrends that truly affect our hobby? Yes, an aging population. And yes, the changes in culture and technology. Just like we see fewer people playing bridge, for example. Or reading physical books and magazines. These trends are clear.

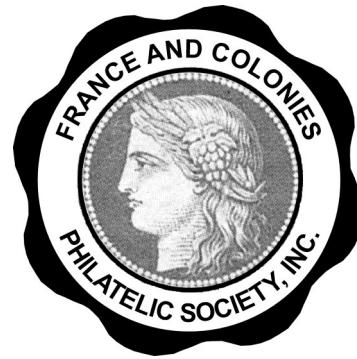
There is a third point that I want to emphasize. The desire to acquire is being held back by economic trends in the developed world. (I make what is probably an unfair decision to ignore the developing world, where we see philately making gains in some places.) Japan, Europe and the United States are all suffering from a variety of economic woes that affect our hobby. Japan and Europe are being taxed to the point that there is little disposable income for the middle class to spend on our hobby. The United States is suffering from similar problems.

What started me thinking about this was an article in the most recent (as I write on October 4) *Fortune* magazine. It isn't the first place I have read about the trillion dollar student loan debt, but it reemphasizes the problem. Most of us who attended college graduated with either a very small debt or none at all. The exceptions were usually doctors, who rather quickly developed enough earnings power to not only work their student loans down, but also to step into a middle class life style (or better).

Today we find students graduating with loans that are difficult to repay. For our target audience, educated people with earnings power that can be diverted in part to philately, these obligations are in many cases deferring house and car purchases, marriage, children and even moving out of parental homes. We are going to struggle to find new collectors in that group because they are going to be well into life (40s? 50s?) before they have disposable income that will permit them to take up philately as a hobby. Looking at the past 80 years, we had a generation of savers as a result of the depression, a generation of children who retained many of those life lessons but learned to use credit, and now a generation that in part is choosing or being forced to mortgage much of their future earnings potential.

So while I think our wonderful hobby will survive, I am certainly concerned that it will not look like it did in the 1950s and 1960s for many years, if ever. That means we have to be ever vigilant to look for more people interested in collecting stamps, and we have an obligation to ourselves to encourage them to join our hobby. I urge you to find new collectors, which you can often do just by talking about stamps with friends, business associates and others. Let's show them what this great hobby does for our minds, friendships, and health, both mental and physical.

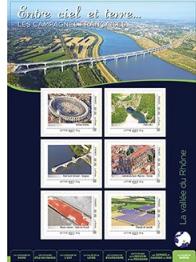
Get ready for Oklahoma City, too!



New Issues

France

- ◊ 1 Jul 2014: Avignon. Sheetlet of ten designs. Nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €9.10.
- ◊ 7 Jul 2014: Lorraine gastronomy. Sheetlet of ten designs. Nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €9.10.
- ◊ 7 Jul 2014: La Marquise de Pompadour 1721-1764. Single €0.66 stamp. €0.66.
- ◊ 7 Jul 2014: 50th anniversary of L'Inserm, Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale. Single €0.66 stamp. €0.66.
- ◊ 11 Jul 2014: Finistère, Brittany. Sheetlet of ten designs. Nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €9.10.
- ◊ 15 Jul 2014: Jean Fautrier - les boîtes de conserve, 1947. Single €1.65 stamp. €1.65.
- ◊ 4 Aug 2014: WW I mobilization commemorative. Single €0.66 stamp. €0.66.
- ◊ 14 Aug 2014: 70th anniversary of the allied landing in Provence. Single nondenominated forever stamp valid for international mail. €1.90.
- ◊ 25 Aug 2014: World Equestrian Games in Normandy. Sheetlet of eight designs. Four €1.02 and four €0.61 stamps. €6.52.
- ◊ 8 Sep 2014: Charles Péguy 1873 - 1914. Single €1.55 stamp. €1.55.
- ◊ 8 Sep 2014: Renaissance Art. Booklet of twelve designs. Nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €7.32.
- ◊ 15 Sep 2014: French North Country; between heaven and earth. Sheetlet of six designs. Nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €6.50.
- ◊ 15 Sep 2014: Loire Valley; between heaven and earth. Sheetlet of six designs. Nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €6.50.
- ◊ 15 Sep 2014: French southern gorges; between heaven and earth. Sheetlet of six designs. Nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France.



€6.50.

- ◊ 15 Sep 2014: The Rhone Valley; between heaven and earth. Sheetlet of six designs. Nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €6.50.
- ◊ 15 Sep 2014: Battle of the Marne commemoratives. Sheetlet of two stamps; one €0.66 and one €0.98. €1.64.
- ◊ 15 Sep 2014: Ile de France countryside; between heaven and earth. Sheetlet of six designs. Nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €6.50.
- ◊ 15 Sep 2014: France eastern country; between heaven and earth. Sheetlet of six designs. Nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €6.50.
- ◊ 15 Sep 2014: Burgundy Hillsides; between heaven and earth. Sheetlet of six designs. Nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €6.50.
- ◊ 15 Sep 2014: Limousin and Perigord countryside; between heaven and earth. Sheetlet of six designs. Nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €6.50.
- ◊ 22 Sep 2014: Keith Haring commemorative. Single stamp. €2.65.

Andorra

- ◊ 12 Jul 2014: Javier Balmaseda commemorative. €1.65.
- ◊ 26 Jul 2014: Ball de Santa Anna. Sheetlet of one €1.65 stamp. €1.65.
- ◊ 26 Jul 2014: Museum MW of electricity. Single €1.10 stamp.
- ◊ 6 Sep 2014: Butterfly Pitavola. Single €0.83 stamp.



French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

- ◊ 21 Sep 2014: First flight Madagascar to Tromelin. Three se-tenant stamps of €0.66, 1.05, and 1.55. €3.26.



French Polynesia

- ◊ 3 Jul 2014: Hevia festival. 75F single stamp. €0.63.
- ◊ 25 Aug 2014: Honey. Single 100F stamp. €0.84.
- ◊ 22 Sep 2014: Bombardment of Papetee commemorative. €2.52.



New Caledonia

- ◊ 9 Sep 2014: 10th anniversary of the sea rescue service. Single 110F stamp. €0.92.
- ◊ 9 Sep 2014: Flora and fauna; Le maquis minier. Sheetlet of three designs, 110F each. €2.77.

Monaco

- ◊ 12 Jul 2014: Carob tree. €0.61.
- ◊ 12 Jul 2014: Baby and Nepal Association (Elephants). €1.10.
- ◊ 1 Aug 2014: Prince Louis II €2.40.
- ◊ 1 Aug 2014: Centenary of WW I. €1.85.
- ◊ 22 Aug 2014: 22nd Grand Bourse commemorative. €0.59.
- ◊ 22 Aug 2014: 150th Anniversary of the birth of Eugene Frey. €1.32.
- ◊ 1 Sep 2014: Sportel 25th Anniversary. €0.59.
- ◊ 1 Sep 2014: Children's Day. €0.66.
- ◊ 17 Sep 2014: Monaco. Booklet of ten non-denominated forever stamps. €6.60.



St. Pierre & Miquelon

- ◊ 2 Jul 2014: Old cars. Four stamps. €2.64.
- ◊ 24 Sep 2014: Phares; La Pointe aux Canons. Two stamps. €0.66.
- ◊ Sep 2014: Philatelic Exposition commemorative. One stamps. €1.16.

Wallis & Futuna

- ◊ 12 Jul 2014: World Cup commemorative. 330F.
- ◊ 6 Aug 2014: Talietumu Ruins. 75F.
- ◊ 5 Sep 2014: Antique rugs. Four designs on one sheetlet. 85F each.

Membership Notices

NEW MEMBERS:

- 3456 Urich, Jack N.
7231 Fenton Dr.
Dallas, TX 75231-8139
- 3457 Morehouse, Douglas A.
10 Cypress Rd
Somerset, NJ 08873-2804
- 3458 Morginstin, Sydney D.
PO Box 8101
Trenton, NJ 08650-0101
- 3459 Alter, Jerome
PO Box 570377
Whitestone, NY 11357-0377
- 3460 Case, Gérard R.
456 Cordgrass Lane
Little River, SC 29566-7107

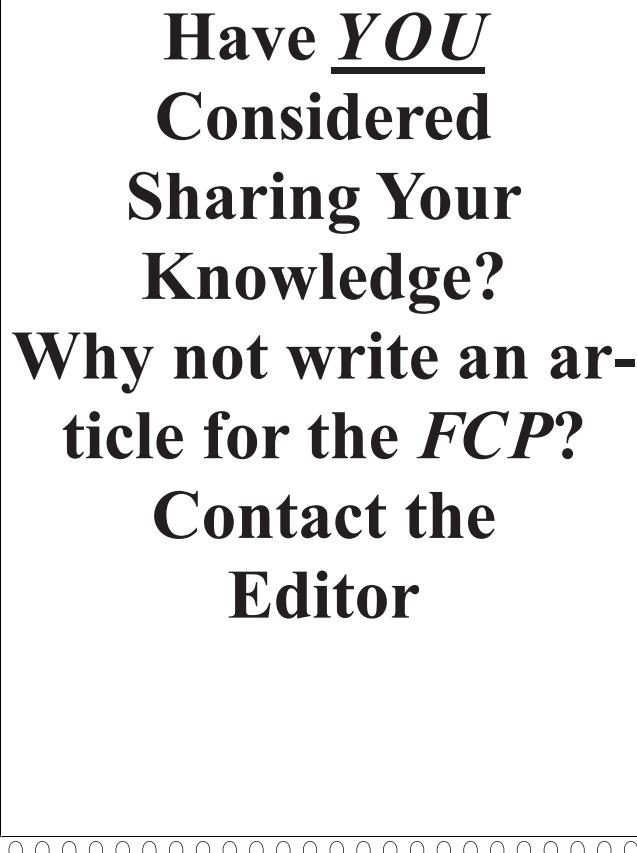
ADDRESS CHANGES

- 2813 Bussey, Lewis E.
3384 West 33rd St
Denver, CO 80211-3106

DROPPED FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES

- 3201 Abensur, Robert MD
- 1554 Abram, Sam L.
- 2941 Adams, James A., Jr.
- 1573 Bartlett, James P.
- 1534 Beatty, Millard F.
- 1788 Boikess, Robert S.
- 2993 Camak, James N., Jr.
- 3256 Carriere, James
- 1073 Castor, William N.
- 2725 Craig, Wallace A.
- 3298 Davis, Alan R.

- 3129 Deusner, Charles E.
- 1318 Devasher, William A., Jr.
- 2761 Engblom, R. Dennis
- 2617 Englund, Dr. John F.
- 3422 Fase, Koos
- 3212 Forsberg, Clifton H.
- 1008 Lievsay, John E.
- 3367 Lipton, Marshall C.
- 1960 Marinescu, Constantin A.
- 3380 Martin, Conrad O. II
- 2616 McDermott, T.P.
- 3313 Moeser, Patricia
- 3167 Morvay, Alan
- 3197 Newville, Edward G.
- 3310 Nguyen, Cu
- 3400 Nielsen, Dana S.
- 2381 Picirilli, Robert E.
- 3417 Richards, Sarah E.
- 3447 Rueppel, David P.
- 2917 Schuler, Steven C.
- 2991 Shartsis, Jack
- 3347 Tucker, Stephen T.
- 2676 Washburne, Stephen S.
- 2995 Wulff, John L.



Members Appeals

WANTED: Tunisian high value airmail stamps, Scott numbers C17-C20 on cover. Scans with asking price to Norval Rasmussen at nrasmu@gmail.com or 224 Wilson Ave, Morgantown, WV 26501.

OFFERED: I have what I believe to be a complete run of F&CP's from 2002 to the present. We are downsizing and getting ready to move to a smaller residence. I no longer have room to keep these newsletters and will need to recycle them. If anyone can use them I will be happy to send them to him/her on receipt of \$18.00 for postage. I plan to recycle these on or about November 1, 2014.

Show Reports

INDYPEX 2014

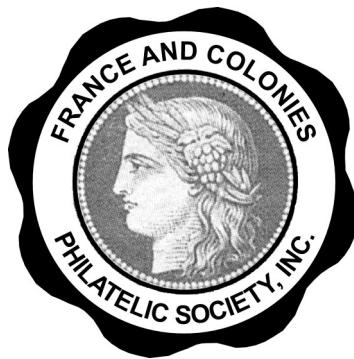
Indianapolis, Indiana September 26-28, 2014

Gold to **Charles LeBlonde** for "The Censorship of the Swiss WW II Cards." Also American Helvetia Philatelic Society Bronze.

STAMPSHOW 2014

Hartford, CT August 21-24, 2014

Gold to **Thomas Broadhead** for "France: The 1925 Decorative Arts Exposition." Gold to **Kenneth Nilsestuen** for "Minnesota Territorial Centennial Stamp 1949." Vermeil to **Alfred Kugel** for "The Expansion of Serbia 1876 to 1921." Single frame vermeil to **Alfred Kugel** for "European Boundary Commission Activity after World War I." Literature silver to **Charles LeBlonde** for "Swissair Special Flights of 20 September 1944."



New Literature

Book Review

Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, Ses surcharges au 19^eme siècle, MÉDAILLE DE “GRAND OR”, EN COMPÉTITIONS MONDIALES DE PHILATELIE - THAÏLANDE 2013, BRÉSIL 2013, Jean-Jacques Tillard, 57 rue de Paris, BP-4433, 97500, Saint Pierre & Miquelon, FRANCE. Price \$115 postpaid, available from the author at his address or jjtillar@cheznoo.net.

This is a most welcome volume and represents a major contribution to French Colonial philately. This beautifully-produced book documents and reproduces Monsieur Tillard's collection of the provisional overprints produced in Saint Pierre & Miquelon from 1885 until 1892 which has been recognized by top national awards in Canada and the United States, and most recently by international Large Gold medals in Thailand and Brazil in 2013. While there have been many French Colonial collections that have received top national and international awards before, there have been two that have helped to define the possibilities of how far an exhibitor might go in receiving international recognition in the area of French Colonial philately, at least in the view of this collector. Monsieur Tillard's exhibit may well be the third exhibit in this group, as he reaches for philately's highest award, but not with an exhibit of all colonies or one specific colony, but with an exhibit of a small portion of one colony's philatelic output.

In 1984 John Levett, RDP, won the Grand Prix d'Honneur at AUSIPEX 84 (Melbourne) with his exhibit entitled “France General Colonies 1850 – 1881”. This represented a milestone for collectors of my generation, in that it established that a collection of French Colonies General Issues, showing material from all of the French Colonies that used these issues, was capable of winning the highest of international awards. At Washington 2006 I believe that I

pushed the envelope a little further by winning the same award for my collection entitled “Guadeloupe Postal History”. What was possible with an exhibit of all of the French Colonies, was now possible with an exhibit of but one French Colony, albeit a very carefully chosen one that has powerful material in all of the aspects of its philately. Now we have Monsieur Tillard who is demonstrating that it is possible to approach exhibiting's highest awards with an exhibit of just the provisional issues and their postal history from one of France's smallest, but most popular, colonies.

During the 1970's Robert G. Stone, the great mentor to all French Colonial collectors, did a wonderful series of articles in the Collectors Club Philatelist on the Provisional Issues of all of the French Colonies. These were the issues created in the early 1880's by most of the French Colonies by overprinting existing stocks of the General Issues. They became the first colonials that could be identified by colony, without relying on the cancellations which are required for the General Issues. Their use in the Colonies fell into decline beginning in late 1892 and early 1893 with the arrival of the Group Type, the first definitive issue created for use on all of the colonies. While many collectors pass through the provisional issues in their single colony collections, until Monsieur Tillard, no one has taken on the challenge of creating an international class exhibit based solely on the provisional issues of one colony. Monsieur Tillard has now done so, and marvelously succeeded. Providing a record of this exhibit in book form is important from two points of view. It documents in one place for the first time the breadth, depth and scope of these issues from Saint Pierre & Miquelon, and this is a record that philately must not lose. Secondly, this book serves as a guide as to what other colonial collectors might accomplish with studies of the provisional issues of colonies such as Martinique, Réunion, New Caledonia, Tahiti, etc. These are areas

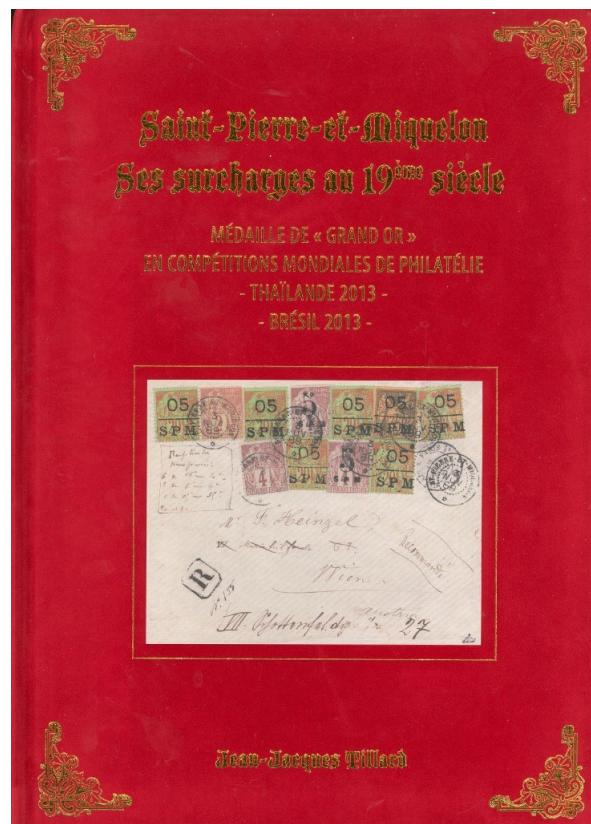
ripe for study and development, and there are rich philatelic and postal histories to be uncovered.

As to the book itself, it is a delight to look at. The color reproductions are excellent, and the smallest details are evident. This is critical for the documentation of the vast amount of data that it contains. There is little more that need be said about the collection itself. It is the definitive collection of these issues and comprehensive in scope. The greatest stamp rarities are present, and the postal history aspect of the exhibit is outstanding. One has to remember that the use of these issues from such a small colony was extremely limited. Typical of the author, Monsieur Tillard has surrounded the heart of the book with peripheral material relating to testimonials, shows, awards, etc. To me this adds the personal touch to the edition, and serves to remind all that philately is a hobby of people sharing their love and interest in the first global means of communication designed by mankind.

The book is a must for Saint Pierre & Miquelon collectors, French Colonial collectors interested in the provisional issues of the Colonies, and French Colonies collectors in general. The presentation and development of the exhibit is also excellent, and a model for students of exhibiting to consult for guid-

ance, regardless of collecting interests. It would be a welcome addition to any library.

Edward Grabowski



Instructions for authors

Electronic submission using Microsoft Word © is preferred. Pictures scanned at 300 dpi reproduce well and can be shown larger without losing clarity. The preferred format for the pictures is TIF.

In all cases if you need assistance in producing your article, cover write up, column closer, or other submission contact me: nrasmu@gmail.com or 224 Wilson Ave., Morgantown, WV 26501, or 304-292-7652, or 304-290-6117.

Deadlines are the 15th of the month proceeding publication (December 15, March 15, June 15, September 15) but I can be reasonable.

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