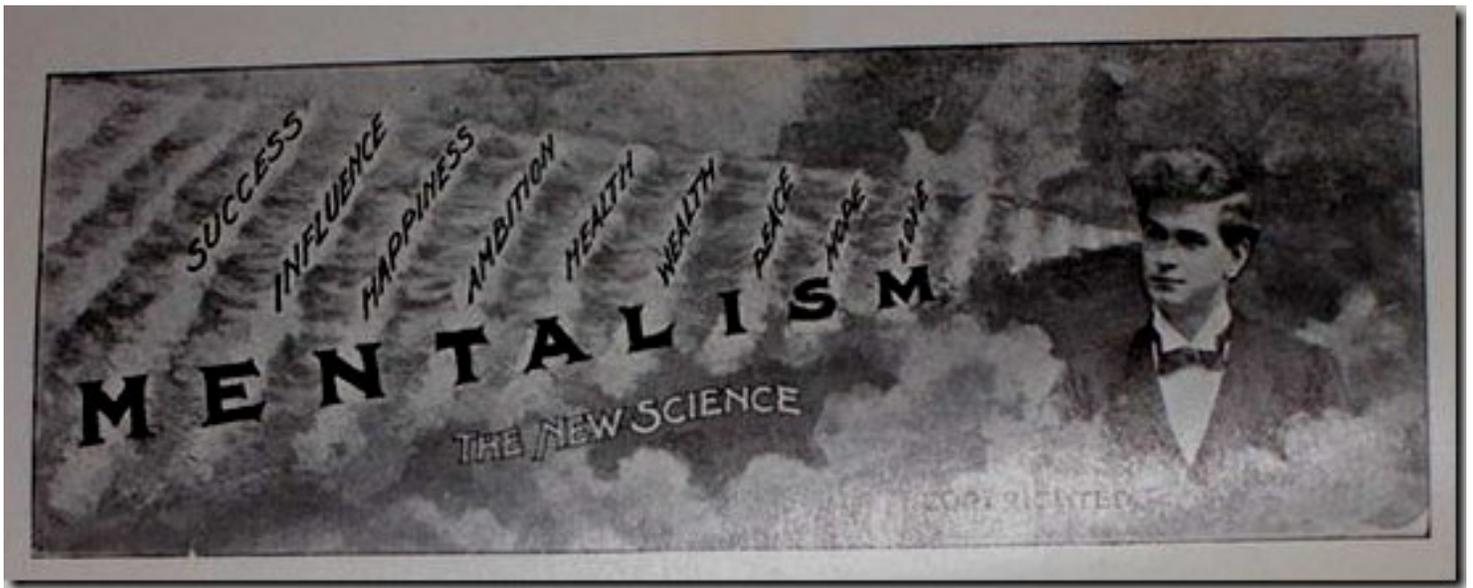
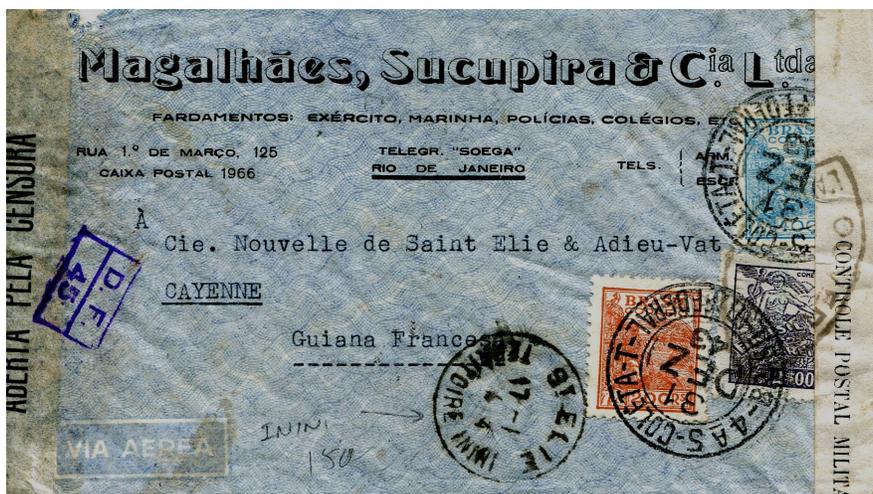


# FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

October 2015 Whole No. 322  
(Vol. 71, No. 4)



*Professor Segno Broadcasting (see page 97)*



*Incoming Mail Terretoire de l'Inini RF (see page 109)*

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Jeff Ward  
 13155 Wimberly Square, #284  
 San Diego, CA 92128-6004  
 PayPal Account: ward-jeff@san.rr.com

All communication about membership, subscriptions, publications, back issues, activities and services of the Society should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary:

Joel L. Bromberg  
 P.O. Box 102  
 Brooklyn, NY 11209-0102, USA

All contributions to and questions concerning the contents and policy of this periodical should be sent to the Editor:

Norval Rasmussen  
 224 Wilson Ave  
 Morgantown, WV 26501

Phone: 304-292-7652, e-mail: nrasmu@gmail.com

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## Editorial



*Norval Rasmussen*

I have enjoyed putting this issue together. Just when I thought I knew my area well, my eyes are opened with the amazing items submitted in this issue. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did.

### FCPS Membership:

The October issue contains the secretary's report. I am sorry to say that we have a list of 34 members delinquent with dues. Look at the list. If you are on it send your dues to Jeff Ward. If you see a name you know, take a step towards them and encourage them to remain with us. I have added Treasurer Ward's contact information to the masthead.

### Corrections:

I missed some new issues of France in earlier journals this year. I included them in this issue's listings.

### Journal Style:

Looking for consistency issue to issue I am devoting the early pages of the issue to education and information. The last pages will contain society news. Advertising will return to the back cover. This column will probably move to the society section next issue. Feedback is always eagerly solicited.

### Column Closer:

In 1941 Tunisia overprinted and revalued four



stamps from the 1939 general issue. They were sold in complete sets at twice the facial value. The National Emergency fund benefitted from the overpayment. This cover sent from Sedjenane to Bizerte used all four stamps to overpay the registered single letter rate of three francs. Sedjenane is a small town in the Bizerte Department halfway between Tabarka and Bizerte.

Please look through your items for similar pieces.

Have a nice day,

Norval Rasmussen  
Editor

# Philately & International Mail Order Fraud

## Professor A. Victor Segno and the French American Colonies

*Edward Grabowski*

At last year's FCPS San Diego meeting I presented a talk entitled 'Philately & International Mail Order Fraud', a new area of collecting that I am currently developing. I have published a number of introductory articles on this topic,<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> but nothing in our Philatelist, and thought that now might be a good time to introduce members to Professor Segno and my new collecting area, plus elicit their help in obtaining new material.

This story began way back in the late 1980's at Guy Dillaway's booth at a BALPEX Show. At that time I had been collecting the Group Type for about ten years, and was always on the lookout for new material. Guy normally had something of interest for my collection, so I made it a point to stop at his booth as soon as I arrived at the show. This show proved no exception, and ended up opening a Pandora's Box the likes of which that I could not imagine! While going through Guy's stock of French Colonies covers, I came across two covers from Saint Pierre & Miquelon shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2. Each is franked at a proper 50c overseas registered rate with different Group Type combinations, and posted to the same addressee in Los Angeles, California – one Professor A. Victor Segno. While not exceptional covers, I was delighted to add both to my fledging Group Type collection. The first was posted on October 26, 1905 and the second on March 31, 1906. Once at home, I added both covers to my newly instituted Q&A data base program which I had initiated in lieu of 3 x 5 index cards. I am still using it, despite the fact that it runs at the DOS level.

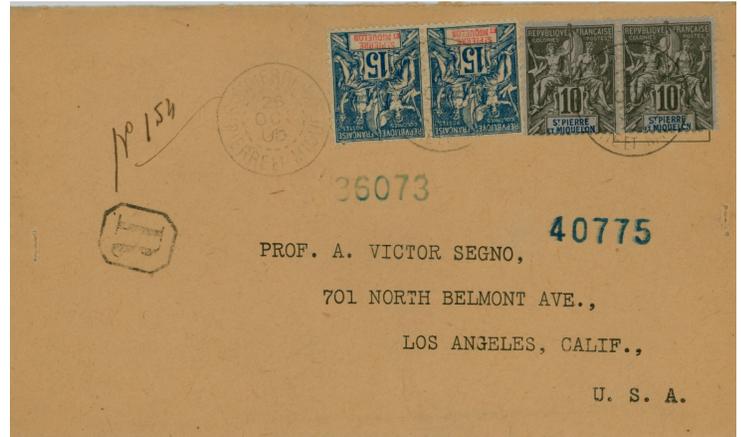


Figure 1. Cover from Saint Pierre, Saint Pierre & Miquelon in 1905 to Professor Segno.



Figure 2. Second cover from Saint Pierre in 1906.

I immediately began to wonder who Professor Segno was and why would he be receiving registered letters from the remote and small French Colony of Saint Pierre & Miquelon? I thought he might have been an ornithologist or a botanist, professions that lent themselves to large amounts of international correspondence at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Attempts to locate him at various California universities during this period failed to turn up any useful information. As time proceed-

ed, I noted that I was gathering a number of other Group Type covers from remote colonial locations addressed to the Professor, but I still could not find out anything about him.

Finally the web was beginning to come into everyday use, and I started to use it to gather information on a variety of philatelic questions. Early attempts to find web information on Professor Segno failed, but I persisted. Eventually I had two web hits almost simultaneously. One was on the web site of the Echo Park Historical Society which deals with this unusual section of Los Angeles located next to today's Dodger Stadium. The second was to an article in the Los Angeles Times by Larry Harnisch, a features writer for this paper, who makes it a point to write about interesting and off-beat Angelinos. Professor Segno was a self-proclaimed mentalist, who claimed to have developed and then wrote books about the New Science of Mentalism beginning around 1900. He was the founder of the American Institute of Mentalism and the Segno Success Club, and charged \$10 per year for membership in the Club. That is about equivalent to \$200 per year in today's dollars. Twice a day Professor Segno would send his Success Waves from LA to members around the

world. He claimed that members' lives would improve in the areas of health, wealth, influence, love, ambition, success, etc. under his guidance. An ad showing the Professor sending one of his Success Waves is shown in Figure 3. Does this sound and look like plain nonsense? In 1903 Professor Segno had more than 12,000 members of his Success Club living all over the world, and more than thirty employees at the American Institute of Mentalism in Echo Park working to maintain his business. According to the Postmaster of LA, Professor Segno was the largest private mailer in LA sending more than 6000-7000 letters and cards per day, and receiving thousands of incoming letters each day.

Shown in Figure 4a is one half of the picture half of a duplex advertising postcard that the Professor sent out to perspective clients showing the American Institute of Mentalism and the Segno-gram Publishing Company which were part of his building complex in Echo Park. He used the publishing company to publish more than six books relating to his various scams, and to publish all of the advertising and correspondence relating to the same. Shown in Figure 4b is the other half of the picture side of the card showing the gardens asso-

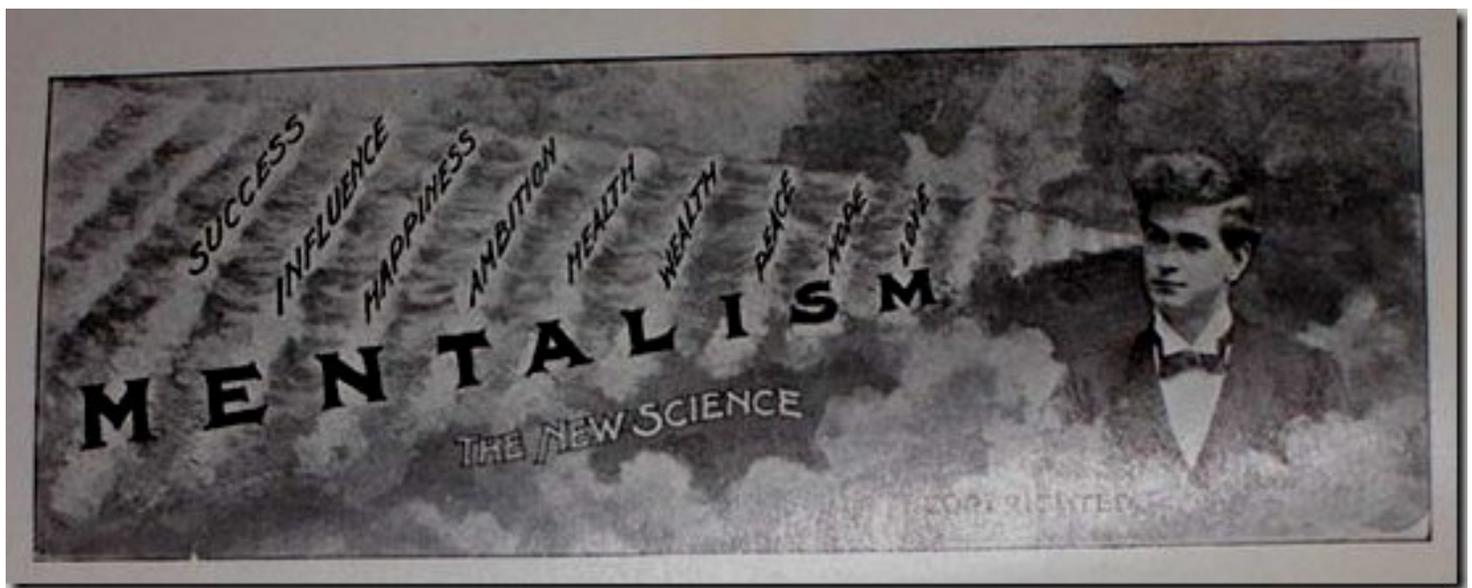


Figure 3. Professor Segno projecting one of his Success Waves

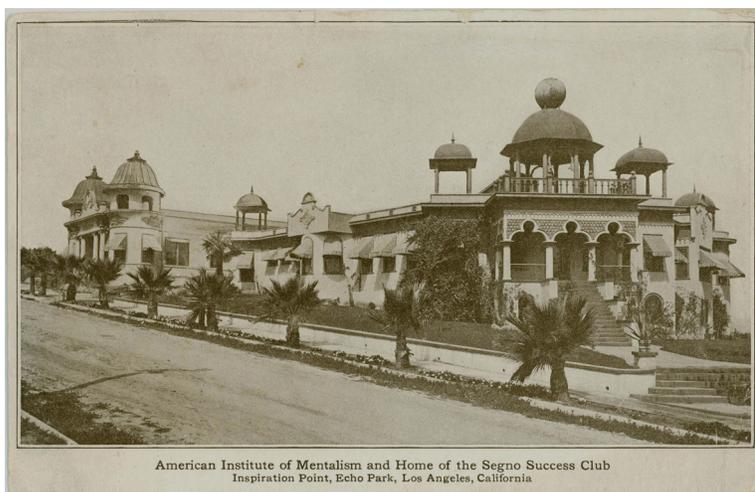


Figure 4a. Duplex postcard half showing the American Institute of Mentalism and the Segnogram Publishing Company.

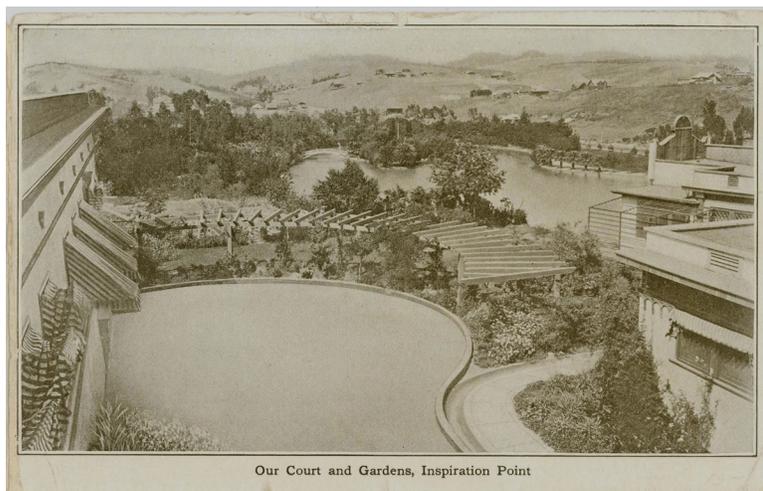


Figure 4b. Duplex postcard half showing the garden area titled Inspiration Point.

ciated with his property, which Professor Segno appropriately called Inspiration Point. The reverse of this card is shown in Figure 5a illustrating the philately and the simple ad he used for introducing the Success Club. This duplex card was sent at a special 1c third class rate for material that had no time value and could be delivered on a when space was available schedule. A close up of the Segno ad is shown in Figure 5b. A photo of the Professor when he was around thirty years of age is shown in Figure 6.

How successful was Professor Segno with this scam? I have already noted the number of members in the Success Club in 1903. Today I have more than one-hundred and forty Segno covers from the USA, Canada, the Caribbean area, Central and South America; all of the major European countries and their colonies; and the Middle East. My earliest cover is from 1905 and the latest is from 1937. Professor Segno died in 1940 at 70 years of age. He knew how to advertise his scam locally and foreign languages were not a problem. A German ad from the Berlin branch of the business, founded in 1912, is shown in Figure 7. Looking at the key in the ad, one should note that the German word for **SUCCESS** is **ERFOLG**. While he was attending to the operation of this branch of the business, his wife, Annie Dell Segno, took over operations in LA. The German branch was

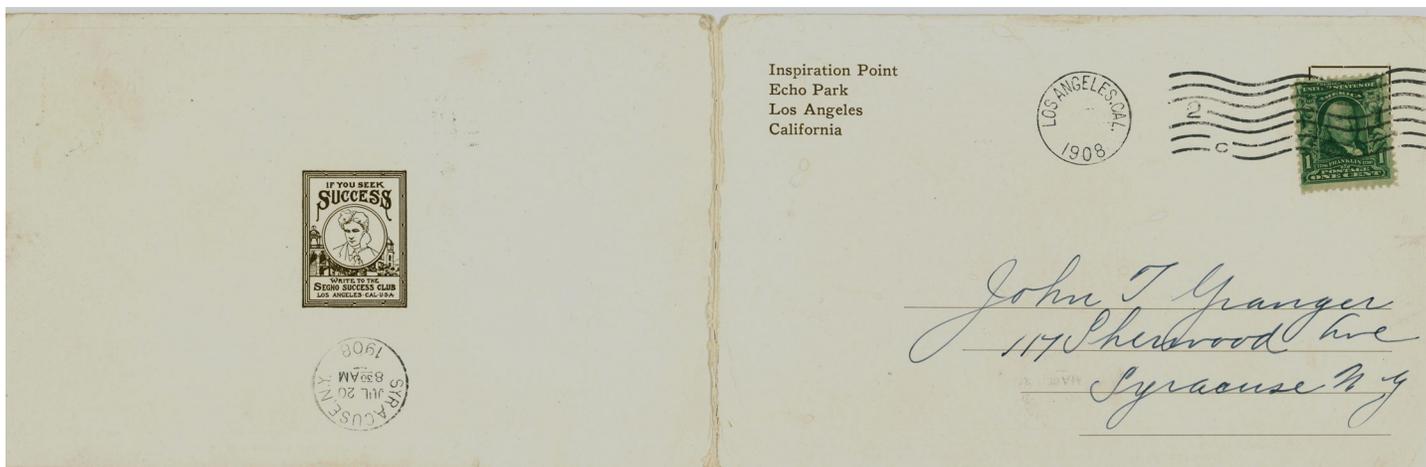


Figure 5. Advertising and mailing side of the Segno advertising postcard.

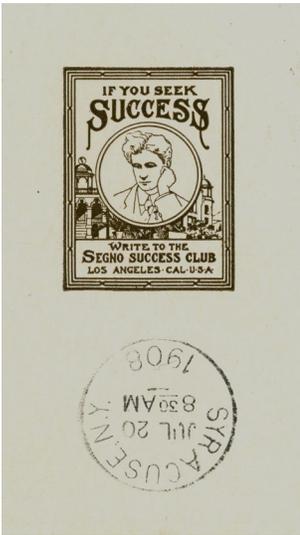


Figure 5a. Close-up of Segno ad.

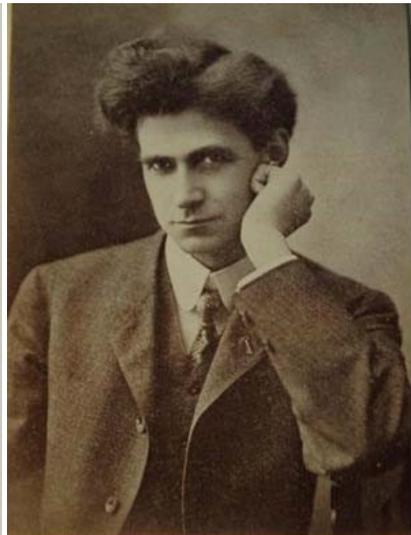


Figure 6. Professor A. Victor Segno at approximately age 30.

terminated in 1915 due to World War I, and the LA Times ran the headline *Mars Destroys Success Waves* above an article announcing his return to the US as a failure. The LA Times did not think highly about the Professor and his scam. But his success and Success Club continued on. Given the complex he built, the number of members of the Success Club and the longevity of the

his foreign incoming mail was saved and sold to the philatelic trade. The same is probably not true with the incoming US mail, as the frankings were generally too common to be of philatelic interest at these times. Thus, US mail to Segno is quite difficult to find. Many of the letters to Professor Segno bear a typed address indicating his staff included self-addressed envelopes for the use of his clients and potential clients with the outgoing mail.

So what do the letters from Saint Pierre & Miquelon shown in Figures 1 and 2 indicate? Since they were registered they probably contained some form of monetary vehicle, and registration was used as a means to assure their delivery. In fact, some of the preaddressed envelopes contain an instruction line on the flap suggesting registration if the envelope contained money or a payment vehicle. It is clear from other evidence that the Segno enterprise accepted almost every form of payment including cash and stamps, even if they were of foreign origin. Clearly two people in Saint Pierre were sending the equivalent of \$10 to the Professor for a year's membership in the Success Club, despite its remoteness and language barrier.

So let's take a walk through the available postal history of Segno covers from the remainder of the French Americas starting with Guadeloupe, my favorite colony. It will be an unusual journey. Shown in Figure 8 is a letter from Lamentin, Guadeloupe at the registered 50c rate on a preaddressed envelope to the American Institute of Mentalism at Inspiration Point in the Echo Park section of Los Angeles. It was posted on June 5, 1913, has transits via Pointe-a-Pitre and New York and an arrival in Los Angeles. For me, this is a most special cover. It is the first Segno cover to enter my collection during the month of June 1983 (thank you Q&A Data Base!), long before I knew anything about the Professor and his American Institute of Mentalism. I only recognized it as a Segno item after I made the first two web hits.



Figure 7. Success Club Ad from the Berlin branch - Hidden Secrets of the Soul's Power Explained to the World

overall operation, I would conclude that the Professor was quite successful in this endeavor.

There is little outgoing mail from the Segno enterprise available today, as most of it was going to non-philatelists and was not saved. I believe that

It was purchased from Robert G. Stone, aka Bob, who many of you know was the Editor of the FCP for more than twenty years, a leader in our Society, a formidable scholar and collector and a mentor to many of us. It was Bob, his lectures and his writings that started me on the path of collecting Guadeloupe, which ultimately led to the Grand Prix d'Honneur at Washington 2006. Clearly, someone in the small village of Lamentin, Guadeloupe was paying their \$10 for membership in the Success Club and eagerly awaiting the arrival of those Success Waves from Los Angeles. The second cover from Guadeloupe is comparable (Figure 9). It is from the small village of Petit Bourg on April 26, 1913, and bears transits similar to the previous cover. It too is franked at the 50c overseas registered rate, but now with two 25c Group Types. It is interesting to note that both letters are from small villages in Guadeloupe, not the principal towns of Pointe-a-Pitre or Basse-Terre. This is a typical observation that obtains throughout the Segno collection. Professor Segno had the ability to appeal to people in the smaller villages, and somehow he got the Success Club message to them despite the lack of radio, TV or the web, or the use of English for that matter. Professor Segno was a master at advertising.

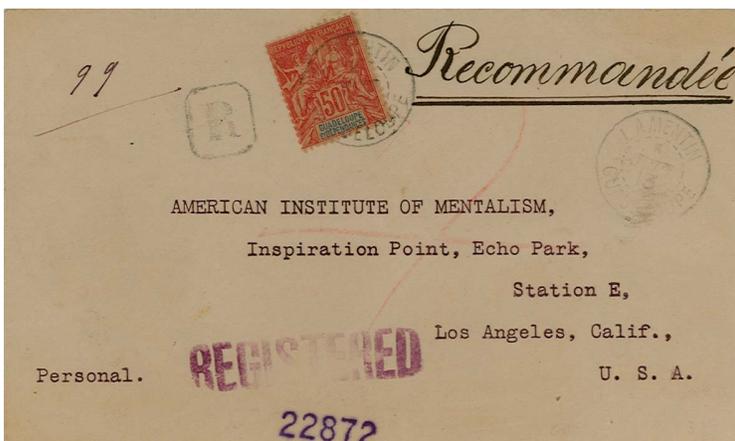


Figure 8. Lamentin, Guadeloupe - June 1913.

Moving to the colony of Martinique the first two covers are from the principal commercial center of Fort-de-France. (Figure 10 and Figure 11) The



Figure 9. Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe - April 1913.

first was posted on July 27, 1906 and the second on September 10, 1907. Both are at the 50c registered overseas rate and undoubtedly carried some monetary vehicle for payment of Success Club dues. The first is simply franked with a pair of the 25c Group Type, while the second is franked with an unusual combination of 3 x 5c stamps, from the 1900 printing in yellow green, and the 35c stamp. The latter is a much more interesting franking. Both bear the **CHARGEMENTS** registry datestamps used in Fort-de France. The first employed one of the pre-typed envelopes, and on the second the address was applied by hand.

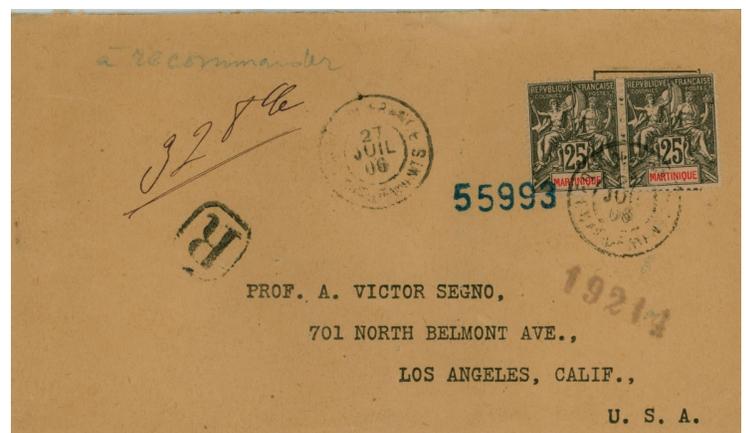


Figure 10. Fort-de-France, Martinique - July 1906.



Figure 11. Fort-de-France, Martinique - September 1907.

The earliest Segno cover from Martinique is shown in Figure 12. It was posted in the small village of Lorrain on October 21, 1905, and is franked at the 50c registered rate with an unusual combination of the 5c and 3 x 15c Group Types from the 1900 issue of these stamps. From the small village of Saint Esprit Figure 13 shows a letter posted on October 10, 1906, and also franked at the 50c registered overseas rate. This example bears two unusual features. Since the 50c stamp of not in its proper place, the instructions from the Segno firm: **USE THIS ENVELOPE IN WRITING US. STAMP HERE** can be readily seen. Also the sender made a request for a return receipt as indicated by the blue chamfered **AR** handstamp. Both of these letters undoubtedly contained dues for Success Club membership. Finally from the small village of Sainte Marie Figure 14 illustrates the simple 25c overseas rate, properly placed in the stamp instruction box, posted on October 24, 1907. This may have contained Success Club dues, or simply a request for further information on membership in the Success Club.



Figure 12. Lorrain, Martinique October - 1905.

The last French colony in the Americas is French Guiana, and Segno material can be found from this colony too. The philatelically most exceptional cover in this article is undoubtedly that from the tiny village of Oyapock, French Guyana posted at the simple 25c overseas rate on March 16, 1911, and shown in Figure 15. It transited via

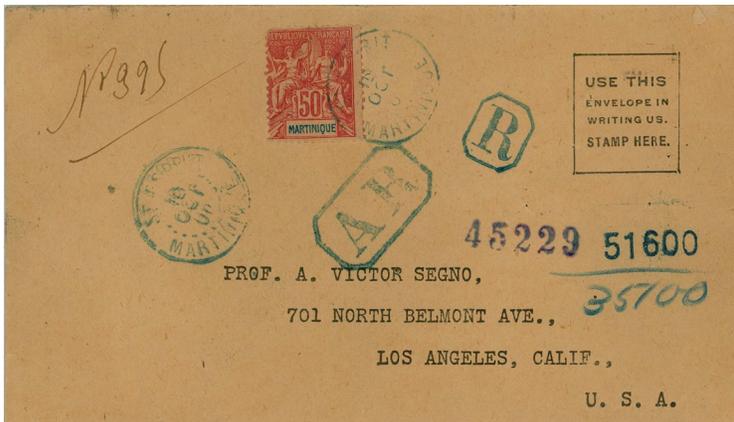


Figure 13. Saint Esprit, Martinique - October 1906.

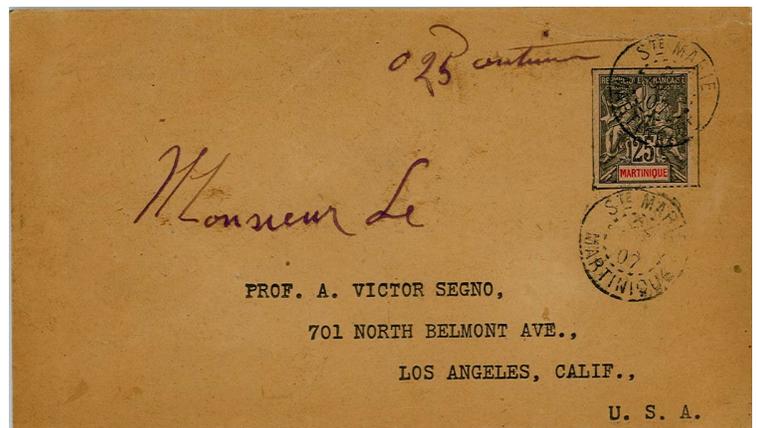


Figure 14. Sainte Marie, Martinique - October 1907.

Cayenne, but does not bear a Los Angeles arrival. I am aware on only three Group Type covers from this village, and I was happy to add this one to the collection during this month. Special thanks to member Alain Millet for making it available to me.



Figure 15. Oyapock, French Guiana - March 1911.

The cover shown in Figure 16 was posted from Saint Laurent du Maroni, French Guyana on December 2, 1913 by a local merchant, again at the 50c registered overseas rate suggesting payment for Success Club membership. The rate was prepaid by an unusual combination of a 1912 Group Type overprint and two Anteater issues, and



Figure 16. Saint Laurent du Maroni, French Guiana - December 1913.

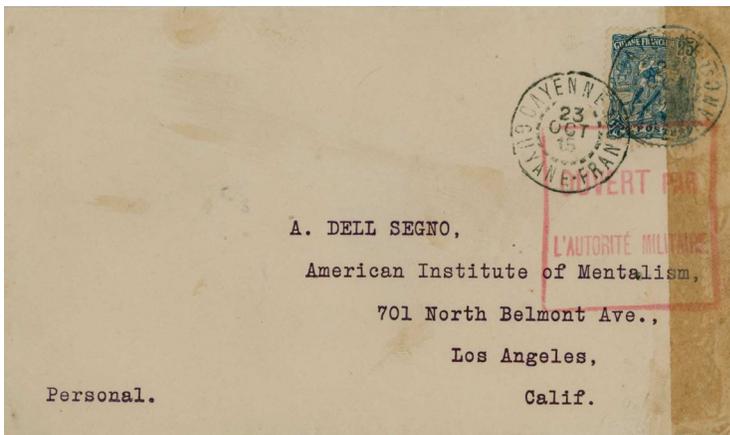


Figure 17. Cayenne, French Guiana - October 1915.

shows nice use of a local registry label and that a return receipt was requested for this letter. Finally from Cayenne, French Guyana Figure 17 illustrates a simple overseas letter posted on October 23, 1915 and franked with a 25c Gold Digger issue. Since World War I was ongoing at this time, the letter was censored by local military authorities before forwarding into the mails, most probably via a British transit to the USA.

The survival rate for covers is generally accepted as being very low, so it seems reasonable to conclude that Professor Segno and his Success Club did a profitable business in the French Americas. The fact that he could build his complex in Echo Park, most probably between 1906 and 1909, suggests that he had considerable money. Why were so many people easily duped by this scam? The answer probably resides in basic human nature, and is beyond the scope of this article. However, I would ask the readers of this article to contact me (edjgg@alum.mit.edu) if they come across covers or ephemera that they think might be of interest to me and my collection. To date, I have a dozen and a half fellow philatelists on the lookout for my interests.

Does anyone else share my interests in Professor Segno? Larry Harnisch, the features writer of the LA Times, certainly does. He has done a number of Times articles on Professor Segno. Shown in Figure 18 is the title page from Professor Segno's

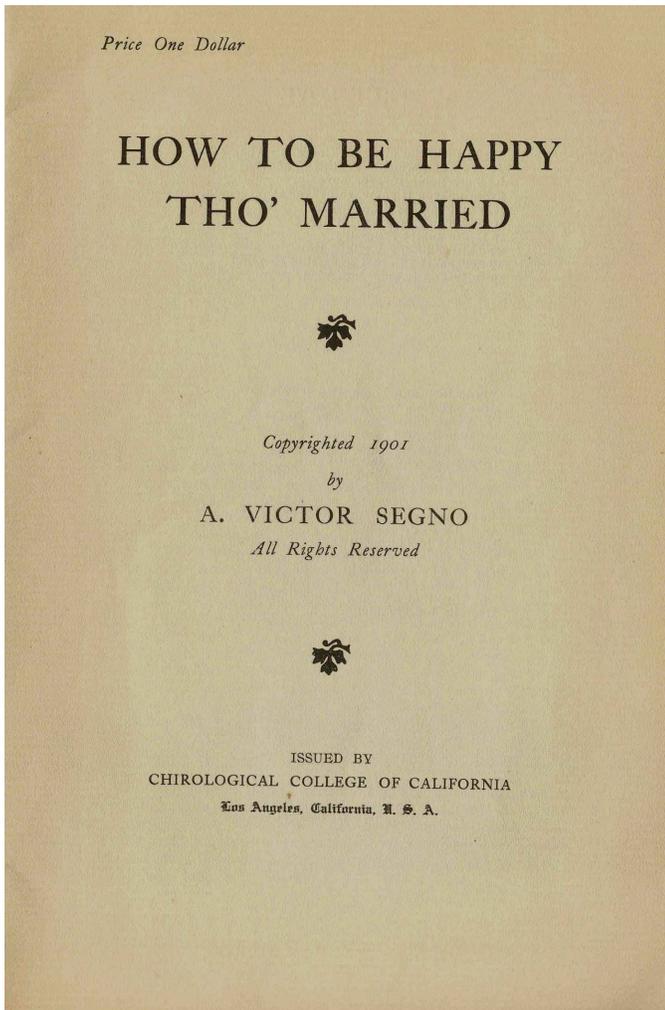


Figure 18. Segno booklet *How To Be Happy Tho' Married* from the Harnisch collection. Segno divorced his wife, Annie Dell Segno, in 1911 and married one of the Success Club secretaries.

booklet entitled *How To Be Happy Tho' Married*, one of his many publications, which is part of Larry's collection of Segno ephemera. In addition to Larry, there is Philip Deslippe, a graduate student in American History at UC Santa Barbara. Philip is studying people like Professor Segno and their times. We had a Segno get together at a recent SESCAL, and I would like to share a photo (Figure 19) which we had taken outside of a restaurant near LAX at which we ate. It shows Philip, Larry and yours truly posed under a model of a Spitfire – and who is that piloting the plane?

Earlier I noted that some sort of Pandora's Box had been opened by those first two Dillaway covers. As of this writing, I have now uncovered three other scam artists who used the international mails to defraud the public at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Such has occurred essentially by chance discoveries while looking for Segno covers. Certain covers just have an aura about them, and the web is a marvelous vehicle to rapidly locate obscure information. I first started seeing covers from the New York Institute of Science of Rochester, NY. This organization was created by E. Virgil Neal and Charles C. Clark, and sold a home study course in hypnotism and magnetism. Application of their teachings to your life brought all



Figure 19. Segno Success Club Class of 2012: Philip Deslippe, Larry Harnisch and Ed Grabowski plus Professor Segno.

sorts of marvelous and irrational benefits.<sup>5</sup> Then I came across covers from the Oxypathor Company of Buffalo, NY which was founded by Elvard L. Moses. He sold a medical device called the Oxypathor which was supposed to oxygenate the blood and cure most any disease. Remarkably, he sold these devices through hundreds of franchises located all over the world.<sup>6</sup> Most recently I added the Dr. Peebles Institute of Health to my international mail fraud interests. Founded by Dr. James W. Peebles and Dr. W. Thompson Bobo, this organization sold mail order prescriptions formulated based on clients' written descriptions of their ills, and again they claimed they could cure any described disease.<sup>7</sup> Such is my fraud update; there is more to come. I can only end with the famous quote: "Lord what fools these mortals be!"

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**Have YOU  
Considered  
Sharing Your  
Knowledge?  
Why not write an ar-  
ticle for the *FCP*?  
Contact the  
Editor**

# Cameroun Money Order Card – Information and Insight – plus Two New Cameroun Postmarks

*Marty Bratzel*

The money order card depicted in Figure 1 (front) and Figure 2 (back) was acquired from a vendor on eBay. The card attracted interest for several reasons. As background, money order letters and cards were in use in France in the early 1920s. One advantage was that payment could be made at one's residence or business. Also, the cards did not require an envelope. However, money order letters and cards were not valid outside France. Frequently, they would be sent to a colonial destination but colonial officials were not authorized to provide payment. To eliminate problems, a French decree dated March 4, 1924 extended the money order letter and card service to French colonies and overseas territories. The French decree was promulgated in Cameroun by an order dated August 1, 1924 (Ref. 1). A French order dated July 3, 1924 (Ref. 2) set September 1, 1924 as the effective date that colonies and overseas territories

could issue money order letters and cards.

When cashed, the left section of the money order card was cut off and retained by the recipient, but the pictured card is complete. Also, the purchase receipt has been attached, partially obscuring the reverse. However, the receipt is attached in such a way that it cannot be folded back without incurring damage, so the verbal description in the discussion below must suffice.

The money order was purchased on January 11, 1949 by Librairie du Wouri, Douala. The typewritten note of the back indicates payment for two invoices totaling 4,436 francs. According to the receipt, as well as a manuscript notation in violet ink at the bottom right front of the card below the 5-franc stamp, the amount paid was 2,218 francs, but the amount payable – clearly indicated on the front – was 4,436 francs. The explanation is straightforward – the money order was



Figure 1. Front – money order card purchased at Douala on January 11, 1949.

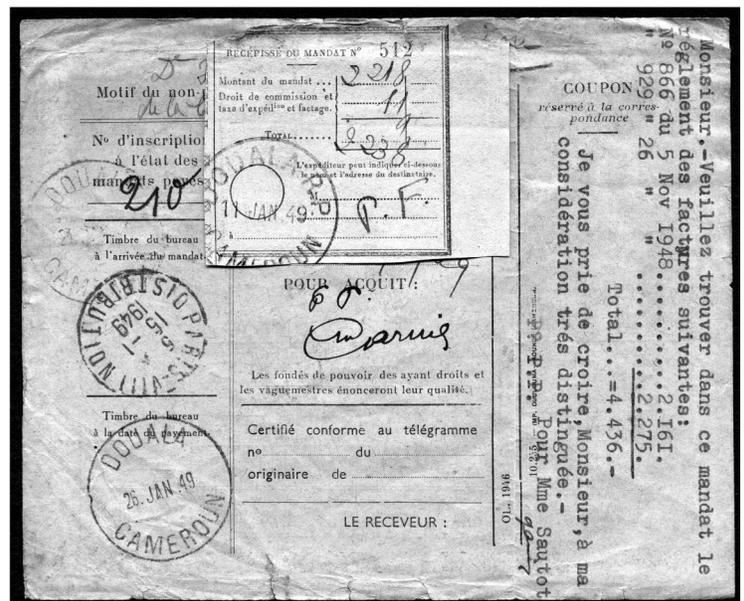


Figure 2. Back – money order card. The purchase receipt is attached, obscuring a portion of the back.

purchased and paid for in CFA francs but was payable in Metropolitan francs. At an exchange rate of 1 CFA franc = 2 Metropolitan francs, 2,218 CFA francs equals 4,436 Metropolitan francs.

The *droit de commission* / commission fee and the *taxe d'expédition et factage* / carriage and delivery fee were 11 + 9 = 20 CFA francs. The total fees paid is correct (Ref 3):

- Commission fee = 8 francs, broken out as 6 francs for the first 1,000 francs + 1 franc for each additional 1,000 francs or fraction thereof.
- Carriage and delivery fee = 3 francs.
- Air mail surcharge = 9 francs, paid for with a 5 franc and a 4 franc stamp.

That the card was sent by air mail is confirmed by its arrival in Paris on January 15, 1949, four days after its purchase in Douala.

Here, the card takes an interesting twist. On the back of the card, at the top left and partially obscured by the purchase receipt, is a section *motif du non-paiement* / reason for non-payment. A manuscript notation has been added which is largely underneath where the receipt is glued to the money order and unfortunately not legible under a light box. What I can read refers to the original address on the front – 55 rue d'Anjou – plus another address – 55 rue des ... – accompanied by a small boxed hexagonal handstamp reading VIII over a dash and the number 23. Apparently the postal authorities in the 8<sup>th</sup> arrondissement in Paris attempted to direct the money order to the recipient, but without success.

Another section on the back of the money order, also under the receipt, is labeled *description des pièces d'identité produites* / identification provided to verify the payee. In that section, a boxed handstamp has been added reading *inconnu* / unknown. The money order was therefore handstamped *retour à l'expéditeur* on the front and re-

turned to the sender in Douala, attracting two additional postmarks in the process – January 24, the date of arrival back in Douala, and January 26, the date that the amount paid was refunded to the sender. It was at that point that the receipt was glued to the back of the money order.

Let us turn now to the Cameroun postmarks on the money order. The same handstamp was used for the three Douala postmarks, dated January 11, 24 and 26, 1949. We previously reported (Ref. 4) the observed dates of use of this handstamp (No. 83 in our publication *Les oblitérations du Cameroun 1914-1960*), but the strikes on the money order have one subtle but critical difference, indicating the existence of a second handstamp identical to No. 83 except that the strikes on the money order all show damage, an indentation on the left side of the circle. The two postmarks are shown here. That there are two devices is confirmed by the existence of postmarks with later dates that do not show any damage. Further, the two postmarks align when superimposed atop a light box. The date that the damage occurred has not been established. We have assigned the damaged postmark No. 83A.

As an aside, we have found another Douala postmark, introduced in the early 1920s, for which there are again two identical handstamps that perfectly superimpose atop a light box, but again

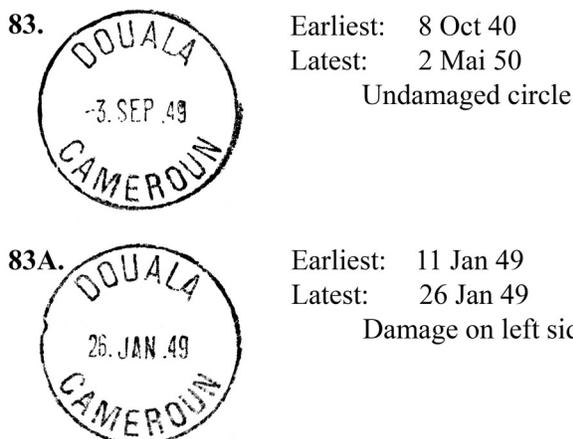


Figure 3. Douala postmarks No. 83 and 83A.

with the only difference being damage to the circle.

To continue with the money order, upon initial examination, the postmark on the receipt looked like previously recorded examples (Ref. 4) but, upon closer examination, the postmark is different. A full strike of this newly identified postmark, also on another money order obtained at the same time and from the same vendor as the money order discussed above, is shown here, accompanied by the previously reported postmark (No. 91). The most easily noticeable differences are the relative width of the letters D, O and U in Douala and the distance between the A in Douala and the R in R.P. The two postmarks do not align when superimposed atop a light box. We have assigned the newly identified postmark No. 91A. We had previously reported that No. 91 was used as late as 31 March 1953 but now, without an example of that date, we do not know if that postmark was No. 91 or 91A. This points out the critical need to document information with a quality photocopy or a scan rather than relying upon what one said he / she saw.

To conclude, the money order card provides insight into payment of an invoice, with purchase in one currency but payable in another, the fees paid for the money order, the efforts to locate the ad-

dresse, and the procedure to reimburse the purchaser. The money order and the receipt have together helped us identify two additional postmarks used in Cameroun during the French administration, a period slightly less than 44 years. The total number of postmarks is now approaching five hundred. How many more await discovery?

## References

1. Arrêté promulguant au Cameroun le décret du 4 mars 1924 portant extension aux colonies françaises des services des mandats-cartes et des mandats-lettres. Dated August 1, 1924. *Journal officiel du Cameroun*, 1924, pages 355-356. Imprimerie du Gouvernement, Yaoundé. Appended to the arrêté is the French Décret portant extension aux colonies françaises du service des mandats-cartes et des mandats-lettres payable à domicile, dated March 4, 1924.
2. Arrêté ministériel fixant la date de participation des colonies et des protectorats français relevant du département, à l'émission des mandats-cartes et des mandats-lettres à destination de la France, de l'Algérie, des autres colonies et protectorats ou de l'intérieur de ces pays. Dated July 3, 1924. *Journal officiel du Cameroun*, 1924, page 376. Imprimerie du Gouvernement, Yaoundé.
3. Bratzel, M.P. Jr. *The Postal Tariffs of Cameroun under French Administration – 1916-1959*. MPB Canada, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 2007. 215 + vi pages + searchable appendix on CD. ISBN 978-0-9694026-4-0.
4. 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.

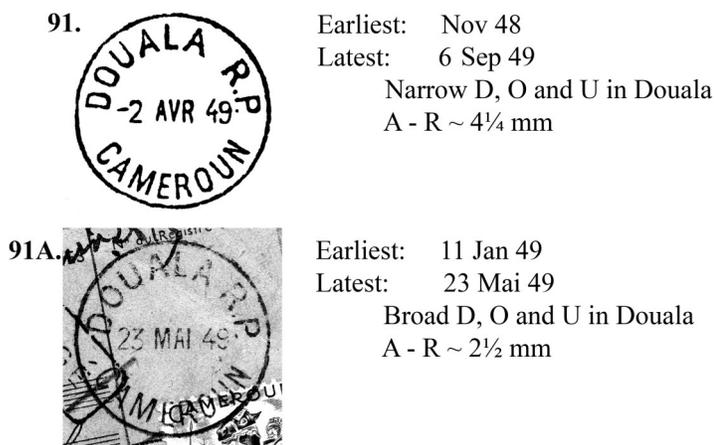


Figure 4. Douala postmarks No. 91 and 91A.

# Examples of Incoming Mail for Territoire de l'Inini

*Paul F. (Fred) Edinger (FCPS 2261)*

**I**nini Territory (Territoire de l'Inini) was an administrative unit carved out of French Guiana in 1930. The French government took this step in order to gain more control over the gold mining and other commercial and political activities in the interior. French Guiana was thereby reduced in size to a 20 mile strip along the Atlantic coastline. Inini remained a separate territory until March 1946 when it was incorporated (along with French Guiana) as an Overseas Department of France.

Postage stamps were issued beginning in 1932, and four post offices were established for the territory. The small gold mining camp at St. Elie was designated as the capital of the territory. St. Elie had one of the two sited post offices (along with the Port Inini post office near the French Guiana border.) Two travelling post offices were created: Secteur de l'Ouest (along the Maroni River) and Secteur du Centre (serving other sites in the interior).

As of 1936 the Territory's population was given as 6,099. Certainly only a fraction of these natives and miners were literate and sending mail to Guiana and the outside world. The amount of mail handled by the postal administration of Inini was certainly not voluminous. Inini postal covers of any sort are scarce today and rather pricey. This writer has accumulated 50 of such Inini covers over the last three decades. There are other accumulations of outgoing Inini franked mail, of that quantity or larger, but not many. Most of this outgoing mail is

philatelic in nature, but the occasional banking, government, or piece of personal mail can be found.

In this writer's collection, there are only three examples of Inini "incoming mail". These "incoming" covers constitute the focus of this essay. These three covers (all reproduced here) seem to represent three different categories of incoming mail: (a) requests for postmark and forwarding service back to the original sender, (b) philatelic creations, and (c) legitimate commercial use.

The cover shown in Figure 1 almost certainly represents category (a) above. Postmarked on July 11, 1941 at Church Street Annex, New York, NY, it measures 7 ½ by 3 7/8 inches, a large enough size to contain several pre-stamped envelopes. It is addressed to the Postmaster, Secteur de l'Ouest (Western Sector), Territoire de l'Inini. It almost certainly contained a few covers, with mint Inini postage affixed, with a request to post the covers back to the US with an Inini postmark. There is 5



Figure 1. Censored cover from the United States to Territoire de l'Inini.

cents in US postage affixed, the general foreign rate from the US in 1941. Eighteen days later, on July 29 this epistle was opened and examined by "Examiner 8023". The next chronological marking (in October after travel by ship) is "Censur 16-10-41" which is likely the marking of Dutch officials in Suriname on the border west of the Maroni River. On the reverse is a French circular "Control Postale" marking along with a Cayenne, French Guiana date stamp of October 30th. One can presume that by Early November (after an almost 4 month journey) the Secteur de l'Ouest postmaster had received this philatelic request.

A second sort of cover, a "philatelic creation", is represented next by incoming mail to Inini in the form of a First Day Cover of French Guiana (Scott number B12) as shown in Figure 2a. Scott indicates that B12 was issued in 1944, but the rubber stamped corner card at the upper left shows a "First Day" for this French Guiana semi-postal as



Figure 2a. French Guiana to Inini cover front



Figure 2b. Rear of cover in figure 2a showing St. Elie receiving mark.

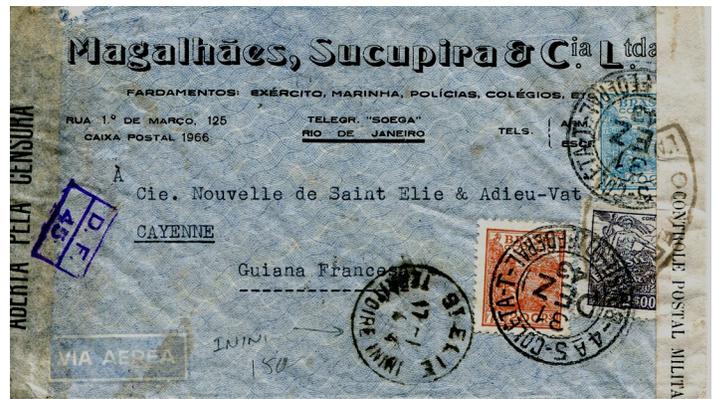


Figure 3a. Brazil to Inini cover front.

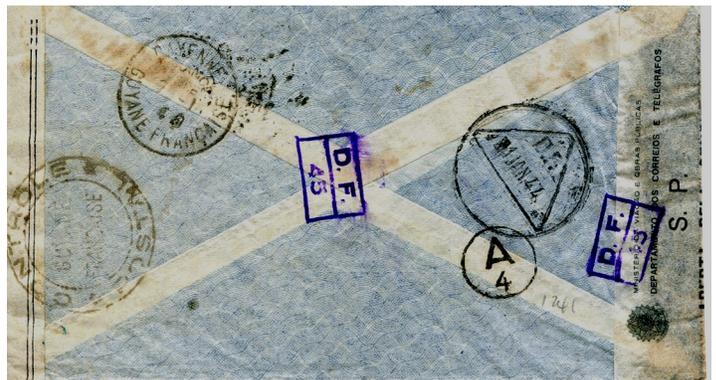


Figure 3b. Rear of cover in figure 3a.

April 21, 1945. The stamp is tied with a Cayenne - France Libre postmark of April 21, 1945 and is addressed to the mine engineer at the mine ("placer") at St. Elie, Inini. The cover is back-stamped (Figure 2b) at St. Elie - France Libre on April 25 indicating a four day journey into the interior. As the cover is sealed with no evidence of being opened and no enclosure there within, it can be considered to be a philatelic creation or souvenir which does, however, show evidence of incoming postal service to Inini Territory.

The third cover under consideration here, category (c) above, had its origin in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Figures 3a and 3b reverse side). Mailed by Magalhaes, Sucupira and Company, Limited in Rio de Janeiro (Federal District), Brazil on December 31, 1943 and received in St. Elie, Inini on January 17, 1944, this cover exhibits an interesting postal history.

Magalhaes, Sucupira and Co. was (and still is –

the company is still in business as of this writing) a purveyor of all sorts of clothing and uniforms: army, navy, police, college and university, etc. The addressee, the New St. Elie Company (with a mailing address in Cayenne), would possibly have been in the market for such clothing for use by employees at the gold mining operations at St. Elie, Inini. The cover is opened at the top with no remaining enclosure. One can only guess at the exact nature of this correspondence.

There is also some mystery as to the exact route of the cover from December 31 through January 17. What can be deduced is as follows: The 2,600 Reis in postage is canceled with a large double ring D. Federal postmark. Until 1960 Rio de Janeiro was the capital city of Brazil and was also considered to be the “federal district”. At left is an “ABERTA PELA CENSURA” censor tape sealed with a boxed DF over 45 handstamp. These markings, along with the “DF 1 Jan 1944” in a triangle in a circle handstamp, on the reverse, were applied as the cover departed Rio de Janeiro. In what seems to be French along the right edge is a second censor tape inscribed CONTROL POSTAL MILITA.... It is handstamped with a lozenge shaped mark with a top inscription of “OUVERT”. This is likely incoming military censorship at Cayenne. In any event there is a Cayenne – France Libre January 7, 1944 arrival postmark on the reverse ... along with a CONTROL POSTAL GUYANE FRANCAISE double ring mark, also on the reverse. The circled A with a “4” underneath marking on the reverse is not one that this writer can interpret.

The evidence that this piece of mail did in fact reach its destination at St. Elie, Inini is shown on the obverse by the single ring St. Elie Territoire Inini postmark of January 17, 1944. The routing of this piece of AIRMAIL from Brazil to Cayenne is another story waiting for a clear answer.

Any and all comments or differing interpretations of any of these three incoming Territoire de l’Inini

covers are welcome. This writer has been collecting philatelic material in this area for over 40 years but is of the opinion that he has barely “scratched the surface” of Inini postal history.

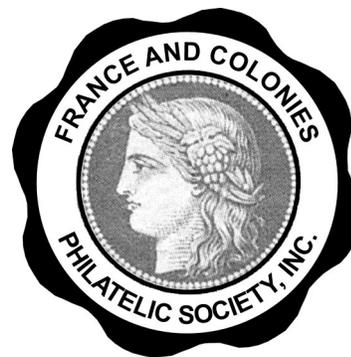
#### References:

Baadke, M., (2002) “Stamps from the tropics of Inini”, *Scott Stamp Monthly*, August, pp. 43-45.

Edinger, P. F., (2010) “Covers from nowhere to nowhere – a gold miner sends his earnings home?”, *France and Colonies Philatelist*, July, Volume 67, pp. 79-80.

Luft, S. J., (1999) “Territoire d l’Inini”, *France and Colonies Philatelist*, February, Volume 55.

Ward, J., (2008) “The strange case of Port Inini”, *France and Colonies Philatelist*, Volume 64, No. 1.



# Group Type Die and Proofs

## *Jean-Jacques Tillard*

**A**fter more than 25 years of research, I have found probably the rarest French colonies proof.

It is a unique specimen realized with the primitive die engraved on "buis" (hard wood) and printed on a very thin paper called "De Chine" or "Pelure". This engraving is larger than the final metal die and the stamp (Figure 1).

We can see two numbers (25) printed on it. It is because Mouchon (the engraver) wanted to know the real space to introduce two numbers, when the value would be added.

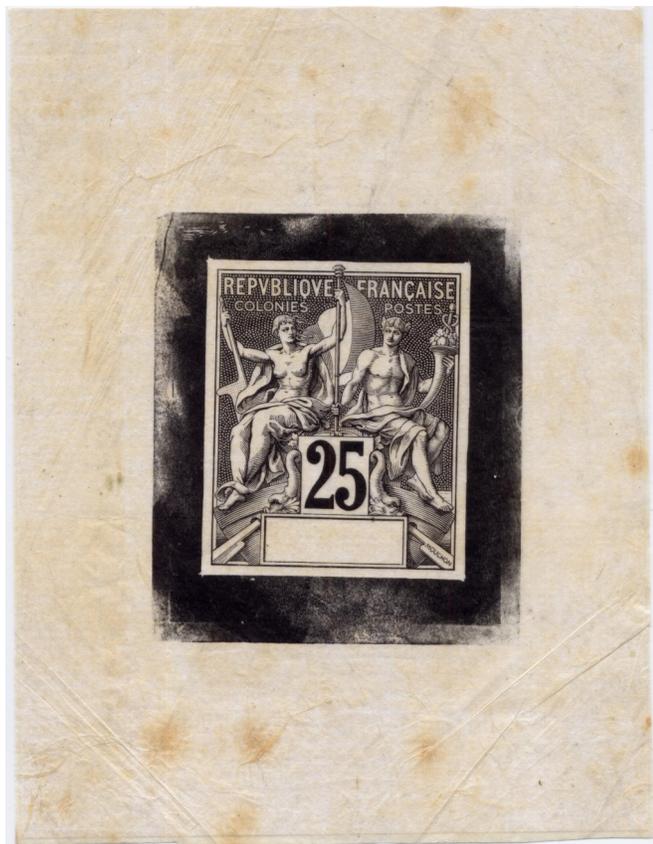


Figure 1. Image pulled from the hard wood die.

Shown in figure 2 (page 113) is a photo of the Group Type die without figures of value. It currently resides in the Paris Musée de la Poste. Figure 3 shows the proof pulled from this die.

Figure 4 on page 113, shows a proof pulled from the steel Group type die. This is the actual size of the stamp. The value tablet is blank so that the different values of the stamps in the series can be added later.

I show these proofs in my exhibit too.

We can say that this item, a big French colonies rarity, is the most important piece of the Group type issues. I thank M. Beussant and M. Brun for helping me find these pieces.



Figure 2. The Group Type die is currently in the Musée de la Poste in Paris.



Figure 3. Proof from the die in figure 2.

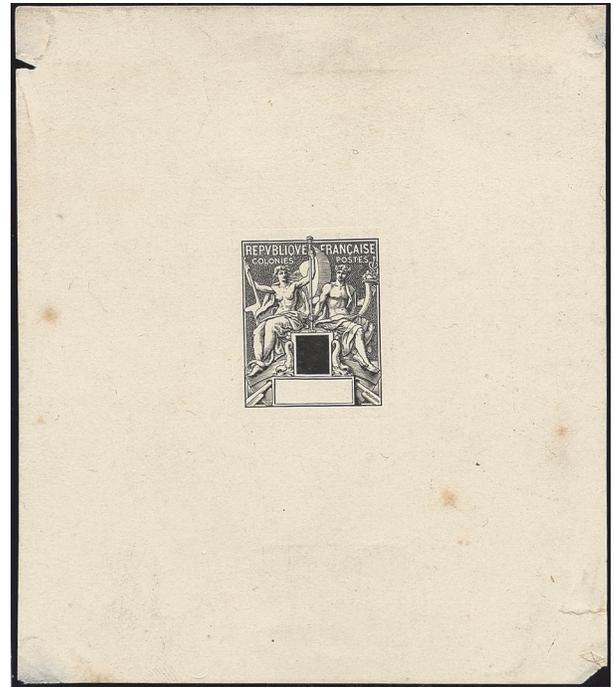


Figure 4. Proof from the steel die.

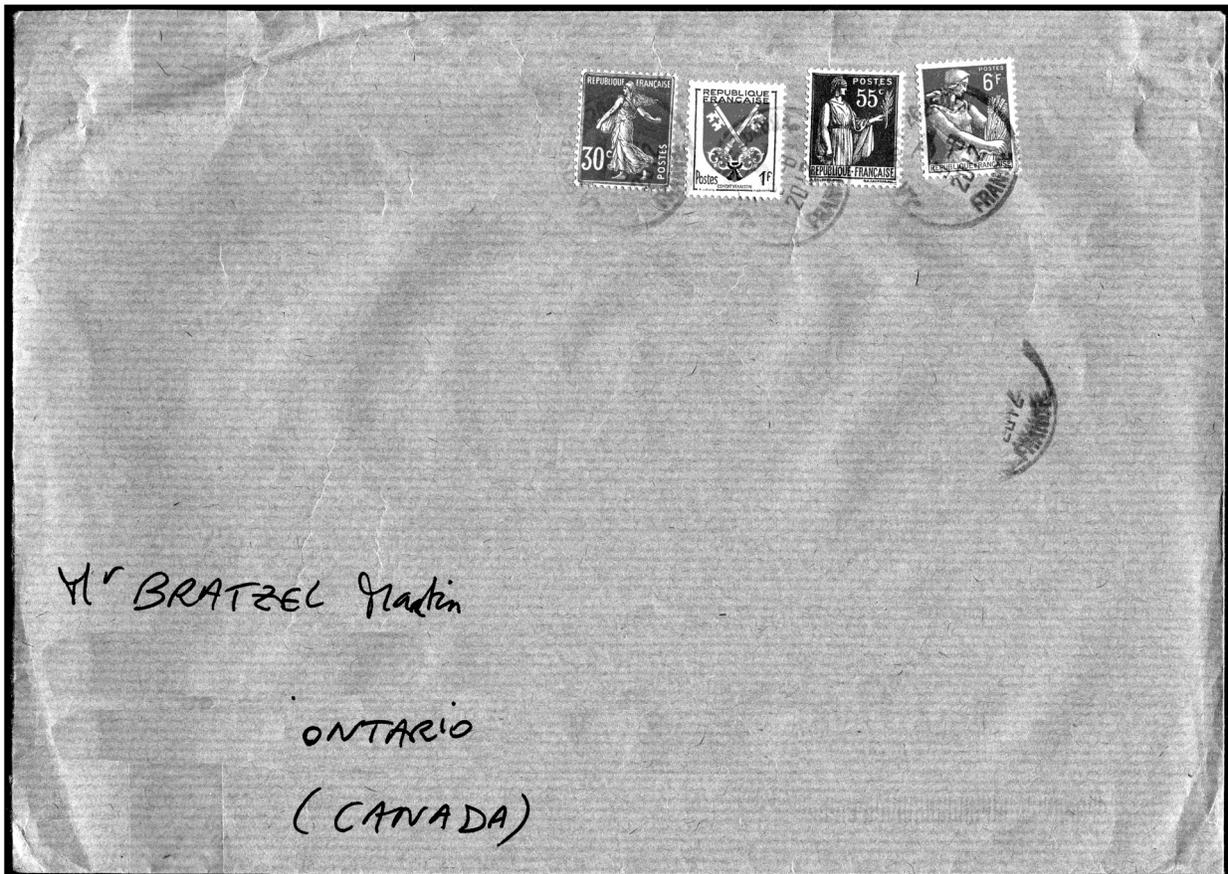


Figure 1. Cover postmarked 9 August 2012 franked with four French stamps issued between 1937 and 1957 and valued in les anciens francs.

# He Paid WHAT to Mail that Letter? – A Brief Study in Currency Conversions

*Marty Bratzel*

In 2012 I received an eBay purchase from France. The envelope which conveyed my purchase is depicted here (Figure 1, page 113, opposite). It bears 7.85 francs postage, paid with four stamps lightly postmarked La Poste 26269A France on 9 August 2012. Many philatelic mailings received from France continue to be franked with stamps denominated in francs rather than Euros, so the envelope is not unusual in that regard.

But take a close look at the stamps. They were all issued between 1937 and 1957. Specifically, the stamps are Scott 174, 268, 785 and 833 and are denominated in old francs! In January 1960 les anciens francs were converted to le nouveau franc at 100 old francs = 1 new franc. The new franc was, in turn, replaced with the Euro on January 1, 1999 at a fixed conversion factor of 1.00 Euro = 6.55957 francs.

Now, let's do the math for the postage on the envelope:

7.85 old francs = 0.0785 new francs = 0.01197 Euros.

I did not weigh the letter upon arrival, but it was probably under 20 grams. In 2012, the cost to mail a letter weighing up to 20 grams from France to Canada was 0.89 Euros. This is equivalent to 5.84 new francs. The 7.85 francs postage on the envelope was more than the required amount – if the postage were in new francs – which it isn't! If the envelope weighed between 20 and 50 grams, the required postage was 1.75 Eu-

ros, equivalent to 11.48 new francs, not close to the amount on the envelope.

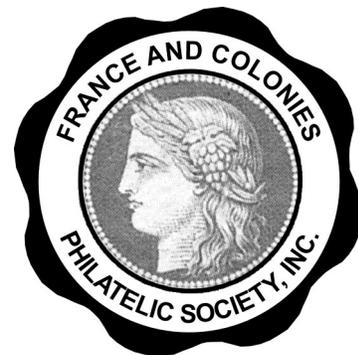
So, clearly, the sender saved just a wee bit of money on the postage. To convert the actual postage to U.S. dollars, using the current (April 2015) exchange rate, 1.00 Euro is approximately equal to \$1.10 USD. We find that the sender paid only about 1½ U.S. cents to mail his letter.

Lastly, the stamps were cancelled by hand, not a machine. The postal clerk accepting the letter did not recognize that the stamps were denominated in old francs.

So another item is filed into my oddment collection, which contains some strange items indeed.

Thanks are extended to Derek Richardson who kindly provided me with the French postal tariffs for 2012.

Enjoy!



# New Issues

## France

- ◇ 15 Mar 2015: Giants of the north. Sheetlet of 10 nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €9.10.
- ◇ 2 Apr 2015: Climate. Sheetlet of 8 nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €8.10.
- ◇ 18 Apr 2015: Paris bridges. Booklet of 6 nondenominated stamps valid for the priority letter rate in France. €9.90.
- ◇ 18 Apr 2015: Paris bridges. Booklet of 6 nondenominated stamps valid for the international priority letter rate. €11.90.
- ◇ 22 Apr 2015: Gravestones. Booklet of 9 nondenominated stamps valid for the priority letter rate in France. €19.90.
- ◇ 17 May 2015: Singapore. Sheetlet of 4 nondenominated stamps valid for the international priority letter rate. €6.70.
- ◇ 23 May 2015: Tennis. Booklet containing 8 sheetlets of 1 nondenominated stamp valid for the international priority letter rate. €10.90.
- ◇ 29 May 2015: Roses. Sheetlet of 6 nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €6.80.
- ◇ 29 May 2015: Architecture. Sheetlet of 4 nondenominated stamps valid for the priority letter rate in France. €5.30.
- ◇ 4 Jun 2015: Mor Braz Festival. Sheetlet of 10 nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €9.10.
- ◇ 4 Jun 2015: Collector - Scenes of Vaucluse. Sheetlet of 10 nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €9.10.
- ◇ 17 Jun 2015: Celtic festival commemorative. Sheetlet of 10 nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €9.10.
- ◇ 18 Jun 2015; 75th anniversary of the Appeal of June 18, 1940 in Colombey-les-Deux-church. Sheetlet of 10 nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €9.10.
- ◇ 6 Jul 2015: Marianne. Booklet of 10 nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €6.80.
- ◇ 15 Jul 2015: Marianne. Booklet of 12 nondenominated stamps valid for the priority letter rate in France. €9.12.
- ◇ 17 Jul 2015: France and Mexico community. Two stamps, se-tenant depicting Gilberto Bosques Saldívar. €1.20 and €0.76.
- ◇ 3 Aug 2015: Animal eyes. Booklet of 12 nondenominated stamps valid for the priority letter rate in France. €9.12.
- ◇ 15 Aug 2015: Marianne. Booklet of 12 nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. Cover theme: stamp subscription service. €8.16.
- ◇ 31 Aug 2015: Competitive rowing commemorative. Two stamps, se-tenant. €1.20 and €0.76.
- ◇ 31 Aug 2015: Proverbs booklet. Twelve nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €8.16.
- ◇ 31 Aug 2015: Bataille de Huningue bicentenary commemorative. Sheetlet of 1 stamp. €1.25.
- ◇ 1 Sep 2015: French philatelic treasures. Four different sheetlets depicting older French stamp issues in varying denominations. Includes:
  - ◇ - Pont du Gard émis en 1929
  - ◇ - Mont Saint-Michel émis en 1930
  - ◇ - Victor Hugo émis en 1935
  - ◇ - Pilâtre de Rozier émis en 1936
  - ◇ - Victoire de Samothrace pour les Musées Nationaux émis en 1937
  - ◇ - Languedocienne émis en 1939
  - ◇ - Libération émis en 1945
  - ◇ - Haute-couture émis en 1953
  - ◇ - Jean Moulin émis en 1957
  - ◇ - C.I.T.T PARIS émis en 1949 €90.00
- ◇ 4 Sep 2015: Tourism sheetlet of 10 nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €9.10.
- ◇ 7 Sep 2015: Marianne single stamp. Nondenominated. Valid for the priority letter rate to Europe. €0.95.
- ◇ 7 Sep 2015: Marianne. Booklet of 6 nondenominated stamps valid for the priority letter

rate to Europe. €5.70.

- ◇ 7 Sep 2015: Marianne single stamp. Nondominated. Valid for the priority letter rate to the world. €1.20.
- ◇ 15 Sep 2015: Marianne. Booklet of 12 nondominated stamps valid for the green letter rate. Cover theme: Individualized stamps. €8.16.
- ◇ 21 Sep 2015: Suzanne Valadon commemorative stamp. Single stamp for the 100g priority letter rate in France. €1.90.
- ◇ 21 Sep 2015: National Assembly commemorative stamp. Single stamp for the 20g priority letter rate in France. €0.76.
- ◇ 28 Sep 2015: French Community. 300th anniversary of the departure of French settlers to the Ile Maurice. Single stamp; Colissimo rate. €0.76.
- ◇ 28 Sep 2015: Everyday life booklet. Twelve nondominated stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €8.16.

*This section contains some earlier booklet and sheetlet stamps that should have been in the last issue-ED*

## Andorra

- ◇ 18 Jul 2015: Folk dancing. Sheetlet of 1 stamp. €1.90.
- ◇ 29 Aug 2015: Motorcycle racing. Single stamp. €1.20.



## French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

- ◇ 14 Jul 2015: 60 year anniversary of TAAF. 3 setenant stamps. €0.80 each.
- ◇ 18 Sep 2015: The Forgotten from the Ile Saint Paul. €1.00.



## French Polynesia

- ◇ 1 Aug 2015: Hope for the future. 1F. €0.01.
- ◇ 5 Aug 2015: Orero. 75F. €0.67.
- ◇ 14 Aug 2015: Tropical architecture. Two designs; 100F and 80F. €1.51.
- ◇ 31 Aug 2015: 50th anniversary of the first flight from Santiago to Tahiti. 80F. €0.67.



## Monaco

- ◇ 9 May 2015; Monaco Eprix. €1.05.
- ◇ 11 May 2015: Old toys. €0.95.
- ◇ 11 May 2015: 150th anniversary of the ITU. €1.25.
- ◇ 15 Jun 2015: Ancient Grimaldi Strongholds in Normandy. Sheetlet of 4 designs. €0.76, 0.76, 0.66, 0.66.
- ◇ 17 Jun 2015: Prince Rainier III Academy of Music and Theatre. €0.66.
- ◇ 17 Jun 2015: SEPAC Issue - Culture. €1.20.
- ◇ 25 Jun 2015: 125th Anniversary of the Automobile Club de Monaco. Sheetlet of 4 designs. €1.25 each.
- ◇ 1 Jul 2015: 50 Million Visitors to the Monaco Oceanographic Museum. €0.76.
- ◇ 11 Jul 2015: 800th Anniversary of the Fortress. €0.95.
- ◇ 11 Jul 2015: 10th Anniversary of the Coronation of Prince Albert II. Sheetlet of 3 designs. €1.00 each.
- ◇ 17 Aug 2015: Rugby World Cup - England. €1.20.
- ◇ 3 Sep 2015: Monacophil. €0.76.

- ◇ 3 Sep 2015: 25th Anniversary of the Monaco Yacht Show. €1.20.
- ◇ 3 Sep 2015: 23rd Grand Bourse. €0.76.
- ◇ 3 Sep 2015: 300th Anniversary of the Alliance between the Grimaldis and the Matignons. €1.50.
- ◇ 3 Sep 2015: Opera Singers. 2 stamps €2.60 and 3.05.



- ◇ 3 Sep 2015: 175th Anniversary of the Birth of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, 1840–1893. €2.00.

**New Caledonia**

- ◇ 6 Aug 2015: Yam farming. 110F. €0.92.
- ◇ 6 Aug 2015: Ornithology. 180F. €1.51.



**St. Pierre & Miquelon**

- ◇ 25 Jul 2015: Voyage inaugural de l'Hermione. Sheetlet of 2 designs. €1.05 and 1.38. €2.43.
- ◇ 12 Sep 2015: Mountain wash house. €0.76.
- ◇ 26 Sep 2015: Pointe aux Canons light-house. €0.76.



**Wallis & Futuna**

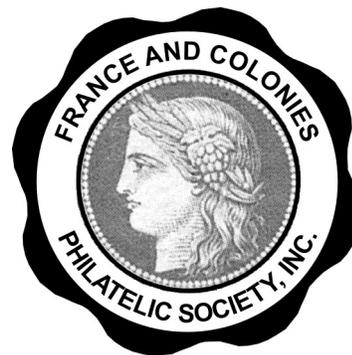
- ◇ 24 Jun 2015: CTOS Logo of Wallis et Futuna. 55F.
- ◇ 13 Jul 2015: Traditional Pirogue Canoe. 400F.

- ◇ 31 Aug 2015: Local Costumes. 330F.
- ◇ 3 Sep 2015: 40th Anniversary of Middle School Lano-Alofivai. 3 se-tenant stamps. 55F, 90F, and 205F.



**New Literature**

Nothing came in “over the transom.” This could be an interesting feature that I see in other journals, such as the British France and Colonies Philatelic Society’s journal. Can I ask for a volunteer to take on the task? It will earn that person an editor title and I will split my paycheck with him or her.—ED



# Society News

## *Convention Schedule*

September 16, 2016 MILCOPEX  
Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport  
6401 South 13th Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

June 2, 2017 NAPEX  
McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner  
7920 Jones Branch Drive  
McLean, Virginia

November 2018 CHICAGOPEX  
Westin Chicago Northwest  
400 Park Boulevard  
Itasca, Illinois 60143

January 2020 Southeastern Stamp Expo  
Hilton Hotel Atlanta Northeast  
5993 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard  
Norcross, GA 30092

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### **We Get Letters**

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We had none this quarter-ED.

World Stamp Show



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## Membership Notices

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### ***NEW MEMBERS***

- 3469 Evan Schlosser  
102 Treymore Court  
Pennington, NJ 08534-1946
- 3470 Robert A. Siegel International  
(Andrew Titley)  
2651 North Harwood Street, Suite 400  
Dallas, TX 75201-1554
- 3471 Christophe Galopin  
47 Lincoln Avenue  
Rye Brook, NY 10573-1351

### ***REINSTATEMENTS:***

- 3420 De Jong, Harry H.  
3318 Mayflower Loop  
The Villages, FL 32163-2502

### ***ADDRESS CHANGES***

- 2798 John A. O'Brien, Jr.  
501 North Bethlehem Pike, Apt. 13J  
Ambler, PA 19002-2512 (Apr–Oct)
- 5651 Rattlesnake Hammock Road, Apt. C-303  
Naples, FL 34113-3528 (Nov–Mar)

### ***DECEASED:***

HL156 otto Hoefler  
2224 Rolfe E. Wyer

### ***DUES NONPAYMENT***

#### Domestic

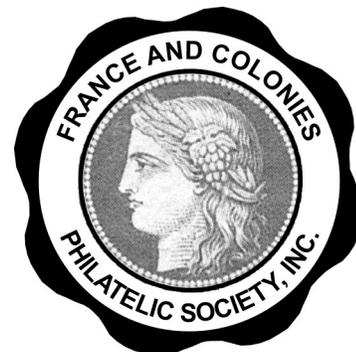
- 1736 Arellano, Refugio  
1136 Balch, Steven A.  
1534 Beatty, Millard F.  
2783 Bradley, Stuart V.  
2515 Buchsbayew, Paul  
2482 Bump, Benjamin  
1318 DeVasher, William A.  
3370 Dufresne De Virel, Loïc P.

- 1624 Dykhouse, Jack R.  
3434 Elmore, George Roy  
2617 Englund, John F.  
3156 Fisher, Edward F.  
3363 Fraser, Colin G.  
2316 Fricks, Ernest E.  
1603 La Place, Raymond  
3367 Lipton, Marshall C.  
3264 Marshall, Craig  
3457 Morehouse, Douglas A.  
3197 Neville, Edward G.  
2798 O'Brien, John A.  
1793 Rickman, Leonard  
2207 Sandberg, Charles A.  
2896 Schroedl, Gerald F.  
2991 Shartsis, Jack  
3390 Sherman, Lawrence  
2060 Theurer, G. Jack  
3452 Thompson, Robert  
3168 Weiss, Jeffrey K.  
2777 Collectors Club of Chicago  
2322 University of Texas, Dallas

#### Foreign

- 3201 Abensur, Robert  
1965 Bonnel, Patrick  
2838 Bossard, Alain R.  
2438 Heasman, R.G.

*If you are on this list, this is your last issue until dues are paid. Jeff Ward, contact information in the masthead, will happily assist you.-ED*



## 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.

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### Show Reports

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#### StampShow

Grand Rapids, Michigan August 20-23, 2015

Gold to *Kenneth Nilsestuen* for "Minnesota Territorial Centennial Stamp - 1949." Vermeil to *Alfred Kugel* for "A Potpourri of American Registered Mail." Also United States Possessions Philatelic Society Multi-Frame Award. Vermeil to *James Taylor* for "St. Pierre & Miquelon 1932-1946 Postal History." Single frame vermeil to *Alfred Kugel* for "Allied Forces in the Baltic Area in the Aftermath of World War I."

**Wanted:**

Your articles on  
your topics.  
Your input on  
journal content.  
Your ideas of  
where we are as a  
society and  
where we should  
go.

## *President's Letter*



Another quarter has slipped past us, and just like that the sun is lower in the sky and we see our gardens losing their colorful summer flowers. Fortunately for those of us in northeast Ohio, temperatures have stayed very nice. We will certainly pay for this pleasantness later.

Thinking about the weather, I hope our two South Carolina members weren't affected by all the rain in Charleston. What a disaster that has been, including the collateral damage from the weakened dams. One can't dwell on worst case scenarios, but the idea that my wife and I might have to pack everything important to us and be out of our home in half an hour or less is a very unpleasant contemplation. Would there be anything philatelic in our car?

Let's turn to more pleasant subjects. Of course I was in Grand Rapids, which turned out to be another wonderful Stampshow. There were a lot of happy people there, and a great selection of exhibits. I think there were only two French area exhibits – Kathy Johnson's Senegal and Jim Taylor's St. Pierre et Miquelon. There were so few that these were not separately indexed as French area exhibits in the program. Nonetheless they did well. It's great to see exhibits that include colorful 20<sup>th</sup> century French area stamps and covers.

I almost forgot Seija-Riitta Laasko's fantastic exhibit, "Paris by Night"! It is largely postcards, but also includes related collateral items that help explain the pleasures and perils of Paris in the Belle Époque. This was the second time I had seen Seija's exhibit, and it was just as delightful

as the first time I saw it. As a measure of just how terrific this exhibit is, she received 96 points and a large gold medal at Nordia 2014. I know you are not all exhibitors, but hers is a terrific way to experience a night in 19<sup>th</sup> century Paris. At some time I hope all of you have a chance to see it. Unfortunately, a quick search didn't turn up an on-line scan.

Perhaps the most heartening Grand Rapids moment for our society was the introduction of Evan Schlosser, one of the Young Philatelic Fellows for the coming year. Evan shares our interest in French area stamps, so he will be lowering the average age of our society all on his own. We have provided a year's free FCPS membership for him as encouragement. Evan and I have also committed to each write an article to try and reach a larger philatelic audience and expose more people to the joys of French area philately.

Other than the big show, philatelic life has seemed rather quiet this quarter. I can't quit with these few words, though, so I thought I might go off philately for a few paragraphs.

Many years ago I realized that I like wheels more than balls, in the sporting sense. That led to me following Formula 1 auto racing (including the French Grand Prix) and cycling, even through all the disasters of doping that made the headlines over the past few years. Why bring this up? Because one can get some beautiful views of France when watching a bicycle race.

The big one is the Tour de France, which happens in July each year. Recently it has spent a few days in other places (England, Corsica) before set-

ting down in the metropole, but one can watch fantastic views of chateaux and cathedrals in dozens of French villages and cities during the three week race. There are lesser races as well, such as Paris-Roubaix, famous mostly for the cobblestone roads included in the course, Criterium du Dauphine and Paris-Tours. Of course I really enjoy the races, but the scenery is spectacular. It is so much fun to see a place we have visited before, to enjoy the French countryside from my living room, to watch the end of the Tour de France as the riders circle the Champs-Élysées several times.

So the reason I mention this is that you, too, can experience a wonderful view of France, not just Paris but the countryside, as part of these races. You may not want to repeat the experience, but I suggest you give it a try. The season is about done for the year, but it will start again in the spring. It reminds me why I like France so much as a tourist destination.

Rather than ramble on, let's cut this off. As always, I leave you with a few parting thoughts.

MILCOPEX will take place next September in Milwaukee. Please plan on attending, to share the fellowship of our crazy friends in the France and colonies philatelic world. I include myself in the "crazies." I am hopeful that we will have another person judging so I can attend our meeting and put on more of my Algerian postal history presentation. I started it in Cleveland, but stopped at the end of the stampless period (1849 or so). There is more to see.

Our great hobby needs friends like you to plant its seeds in the hearts of more folks. Talk about it, make it fun, mentor an adult. I had so much fun with the discoveries I made about the letter in last quarter's journal that I have continued with other items. History is in our hands.

Remember to pay your dues when the notice appears. It will be in your email before long. As always, the society needs your support, whether financial, as a writer, as a collector or as a scholar.

Greater Houston Stamp Show has a single frame competition each year based on a color. I swore a solemn oath (as did everyone attending) to spread the word that next year's color is blue. Think of all the blue French stamps there are that could fit into a wonderful one-frame exhibit!

And HAVE FUN!

Ken Nilsestuen  
President

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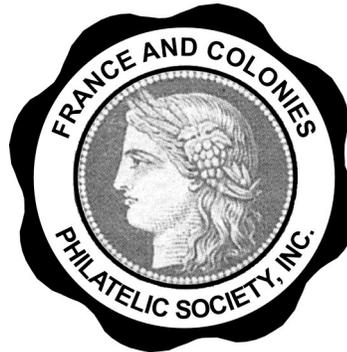
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g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		36	36
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		278	274
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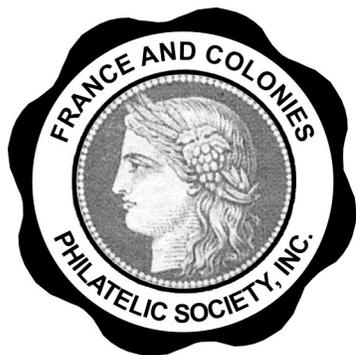
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## Help Wanted

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

304-292-7652 or 304-290-6117

## Instructions for authors

I spent a great deal of time with the old issues before putting this one together. I found very detailed instructions for authors in the July 2007 *F&CP* volume (whole number 289). These should continue to guide you in your submissions. 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 will remain TIF. I note David Herendeen's instructions in the July 2007 issue concerning the use of JPEG scans. Some of the illustrations in the last issue lost clarity and sharpness in the final printed issue. They were in JPEG format. Although they looked fine in my document they degraded going forward.

In all cases if you need assistance in producing your article, cover write up, column closer, or other submission contact me: [nrasmu@gmail.com](mailto: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.

*ED*

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