

The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: French India

by Edward Grabowski

French India had a unique feature that separated it from all of the other French colonies. It was a non-contiguous colony consisting of five small French enclaves spread over the coastal areas of the Indian subcontinent. The French were decades behind the British and Dutch in creating Indian settlements, and did not do so until well into the 17th century. As a result, their colonial endeavors never achieved great financial significance in India, comparable to those of their British competitors. The five French enclaves that resulted were Pondichéry and Karikal on the lower east coast of India, Chandernagor on the upper east coast, Yanon on the central east coast and Mahé on the lower west coast as shown in the map in Figure 1.

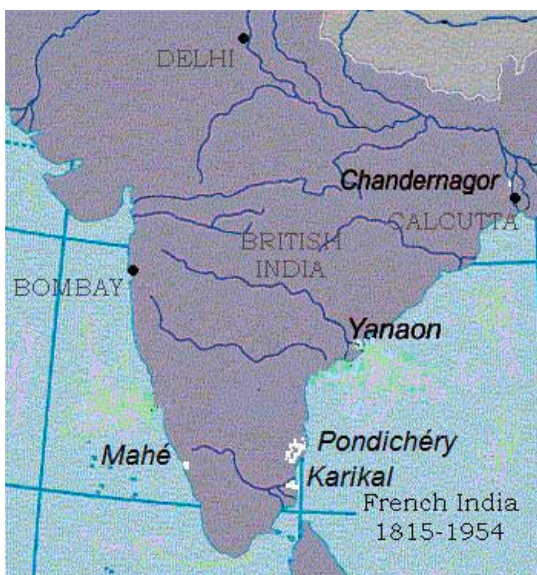


Figure 1. Map of India showing the five French enclaves.

In this article I will examine the postal history during the era of the Group Type period from this colony based on the material that I have assembled over the past 40 years. Because of the small size of the overall colony, the postal history is very limited in quantity, and one cannot expect to develop the broad postal history collection that is possible for a larger colony such as Guadeloupe or Indochina or Madagascar.

Pondichéry

Pondichéry was the largest and most important of the French enclaves in India, and provided the administrative offices for the colony. The largest share of the surviving mail is from this entity. Throughout the Group Type era, the UPU rate structure prevailed, and relevant rates will be discussed as encountered. During this era, 5 centimes and 10 centimes (hereafter 5c and 10c) postcard rates were in effect: the former for cards with messages of five words or less and considered as printed matter; the



Figure 2. Post card from Pondichéry received at five pfennigs due in the Alsace..



Figure 3. Reverse of the post card in Figure 2..

latter for cards with messages of longer than five words.¹ Shown in Figure 2 is a UPU post card prepared under the auspices of British India used from the French office at Pondichéry in early April 1899. The card was written on March 20 (see Figure 3), and the posting in Pondichéry was not until sometime in April as can be seen in the datestamp at the lower left. The card was posted to Mulhouse in the German Alsace where it arrived on April 22. On departure, it did not meet the requirements for the 5c rate, possibly because the message was longer than five words or the sender failed to add a manuscript *imprime*, so the card was struck with a **T** in triangle for due. On arrival the card was treated at the 10 pfennig rate, credited with 5 pfennigs payment and charged 10 pfennigs due, double the shortage, from the addressee. The picture sides of the post cards, Figure 3 in this case, are often as interesting as the business side, showing aspects of local culture from distant lands for consumption of the people at home.



Figure 4. Printed matter rate from Pondichéry on a death notice.

Among the 5c rates was a simple printed matter rate of 5c per 50 grams of material. Shown in Figure 4 is a death notice posted from Pondichéry on April 4, with the year uncertain, to Geneva at this rate. The item shows a typical routing via Bombay and Brindisi for mail from French India. It is only occasionally that one sees a complete



Figure 5. Details of the death notice shown in Figure 4..

death notice such as this with the full details on the deceased as shown in Figure 5.

Registered post cards from the colonies (10c postage and 25c registration) are items of greater desirability as postcards were rarely registered. Of all the possibilities to prepay this rate, the rarest is with a single 35c Group Type stamp as shown by the example in Figure 6 posted from Pondichéry on June 22, 1909, to Hanoi, Indochina. The 35c Group Type stamp was issued in 1906 to prepay the newly-effective registered French community rate (10c postage plus 25c registration), and it is occasionally seen on a registered postcard as shown in this example.



Figure 6. Registered post card at the 35c rate from Pondichéry.

At the inception of the Group Type's use, the French community rate was 25c per 15 grams. On January 1, 1899, it was lowered to 15c, and on April 16, 1906, it was lowered to 10c. Shown in Figure 7 is a seemingly typical 25c French community rate from Pondichéry to Saigon on December 19, 1895, where the letter was transported by French Packet Line N that served these colonies at this time. It bears a Saigon arrival from January 4 on the reverse. However, a close examination of the stamp used to frank this letter shows it to be from Réunion (Figure 8), a practice that was illegal at



Figure 7. French Community rate of 25c on a letter from Pondichéry to Saigon in 1895 employing a stamp from Réunion, which was illegal at the time.



Figure 8. Detail of the stamp in Figure 7 showing it to be from Réunion.



Figure 9. Letter in 1893 from Pondichéry to Budapest, Hungary.

the time. Chances are the Réunion legend in this stamp went unnoticed by the processing clerk in Pondichéry. During most of this period, the rate to destinations outside the French Community remained 25c per 15 grams as shown by the letter in Figure 9. It bears 10c and 15c Group Type stamps prepaying the overseas rate to Budapest, Hungary, a most unusual destination for French colonial mail. The letter left Pondichéry on March 2, 1893, and arrived in Budapest on March 22. It traveled via the Suez Ca-

nal and Brindisi as evidenced by the red MODANE A PARIS railroad transit stamp on the front. From Paris it traveled to Budapest by train. The addressee, one Lajos Richter, was a prominent Hungarian philatelist of the times and President of the Hungarian Philatelic Academy. He maintained a large international correspondence at this time, and mail to him from most unusual origins is frequently seen. Letters to him are typically franked at proper rates. I also have letters to him from Pnompenh, Cambodia and Papeete, Tahiti in the Group Type collection.

Registration during the era of the Group Type generally remained at 25c regardless of the destination as suggested by the previously cited registered postcard. An unusual and early French Community registered letter is shown in Figure 10. It was



Figure 10. Registered letter at the 50c rate with an unusual combination of Dubois and Group Type stamps. .

posted from Pondichéry on March 16, 1893, to a Paris suburb, and franked with a 35c Dubois Type stamp of the French Colonies General Issues and a 15c Group Type stamp to prepay the 50c rate. In checking my database, I was surprised to note that this is the only mixed franking of a General Issue stamp and a Group Type stamp from French India that I have noted to date. In checking the MilletDubois collection on the Issuu Web Site,² I note only two Dubois covers from

French India, and no Dubois-Group Type mixed franking covers in Alain's collection. Also worth noting is that during the 1880s, almost all of the French colonies overprinted existing stocks of General Issues stamps with some indicator of the colony's name, except for French India, which continued to use the General Issues until the Group Type stamps arrived. A more traditional registered 50c rate letter to France is shown in Figure 11. Group Type stamps (20c and 30c) have been beautifully paired and used from Pondichéry on July 6, 1898, to Saint Briec, France,



Figure 11. Registered letter to France with 20c and 30c Group Types prepaying the 50c rate.



Figure 12. Registered letter to France with 20c and 30c Group Types prepaying the 50c rate.

where the letter was received on July 25. For routing the letter is marked *Via Brindisi*, and the letter bears a MODANE A PARIS railroad transit marking. Figure 12 shows the front of a registered letter franked at 1f75c posted from Pondichéry on December 13, 1899. A manuscript notation to the right of the stamps indicates that the item weighed 139 grams, which corresponds to a tenth weight level letter (135 – 150 grams weight). At this time the postage within the French Community had been reduced to 15c per 15 grams, so the 1f75c total

postage corresponds to 1f50c postage and 25c registration. Even though this is just a front, it is a remarkable item showing proper use of the two highest value Group Type stamps of French India.

An additional element that could be added to registration is that of a return receipt. Figure 13 shows a registered letter posted from Pondichéry on November 22, 1898, to Lyon, France. In addition to the chamfered **R** in red for registration, the letter bears a crude **AR** handstamp in red, which indicated that a return receipt (*Avis de Réception*) was requested for this letter. It is colorfully franked with two 25c Group Types prepaying the 50c registered rate to France, and a block of four and a single of the 2c Group Type prepaying the 10c for the return receipt yielding a total rate of 60c. At the beginning of the Group Type era, the 10c cost of a return receipt was added to the outgoing envelope in stamps, and it was the responsibility of the receiving post office to create a return receipt and send it back to the originating office. The suggestion from this envelope is that in late 1898 this practice was still in place for mail from French India to the French Community. The practice was changed around this time, and the sending offices used preprinted return receipts that accompanied the registered letters to their destinations for processing and return. Another peculiarity of this item is the crudeness of the AR handstamp. It is definitely not of official French postal origin, but was created from existing type locally available in French India. I have noted this practice in many French colonies during this period and documented such.³



Figure 13. Registered letter to Lyon in 1898 franked at 60c including 10c for a return receipt.

Figure 14 illustrates a return receipt form during the post-1898 period when the sending offices created the return receipt and mailed it with the registered item. It was the responsibility of the receiving office to complete the form and return it. The form shown is an official French post office form that was used from Pondichéry on April 25, 1907. There were a number of different forms available to the colonial offices, and this example was, to my knowledge, only used in French India. The stamp at the upper right reflected the 10c charge for the form. The sending office filled in the details on the item, and the receiving office added its datestamp (**RETIERS ILLE ET VILAINE, 10-07** in this case), and the local postmaster signed the form and saw to its proper return. Examples of properly used return receipt forms from the French colonies during this period are rare, and represent sought-after items for any colonial collection.



Figure 14. Return receipt for a registered letter posted from Pondichéry in 1907.

Pondichéry - The 1903 Overprints

Beginning in early 1900, many of the French colonies began to experience shortages of lower value Group Type stamps. Réunion responded by authorizing the use of postage due stamps as regular postage on local mail.⁴ Guadeloupe responded by authorizing prepayment of local mail in cash.⁵ Ultimately most of the colonies responded by overprinting higher value stamps to create needed lower value stamps. Some colo-

nies recognized that this was an opportunity to exploit the philatelic market. Guadeloupe and New Caledonia were typical of this group creating overprints on overprints and an unending array of overprint varieties. French India's needs were modest, and in 1903 only five overprints were created locally in Pondichéry. On the 25c Group Type stamp these included 0,05, 0,10 and 0,15 overprints corresponding to the basic printed matter, postcard and French Community rates, and a 0.40 overprint on the 50c Group Type stamp corresponding to the 40c Registered French Community rate. Only a few thousand examples of each overprint were created, a very modest number, and only a very few varieties resulted. Thus covers showing proper use of these overprints are generally rare. To supplement the 5c overprint, the upper half of a gray-blue fiscal stamp was overprinted **Inde F^{caise} POSTES 0,05** completing the Group Type era overprints for this colony, other than some revaluations of postal stationery, which will be discussed shortly.



Figure 15. Proper use of the 5c provisional of 1903 created on the upper half of a fiscal stamp.



Figure 16. Proper use of the 0,05 overprint on the 25c Group Type stamp at the short message post card rate.

Although listed last for the overprints in the catalogs, I would like to start this section with the 5c overprint on the bisect of the fiscal stamp. The example shown in Figure 15 was posted in Pondichéry on December 30, 1903 to the small village of Travinh, Indochina, where it was backstamped on January 3. Given the date and 5c printed matter rate, this envelope undoubtedly contained holiday greetings, which the French customarily sent out in late December through January of each year. It represents excellent use of this fiscally-derived provisional stamp created during the era of the Group Type. Of the overprints created on the 25c Group Type stamp, the 0,05 is the most difficult to find properly used. Like the bisect above, this value was created for the 5c printed matter rate and the 5c short message postcard rate. Figure



Figure 17. Detailed view of the stamp in Figure 16.

16 shows its proper use on a postcard from Pondichéry in 1904. The manuscript *Imprimé* has been written over the crossed-out **CARTE POSTALE** as required by regulations, and the reverse shows just a signature of four words. These overprints are very difficult to see at normal scale, so an enlarged scan of the stamp is shown in Figure 17.

Closing out the overprint section is a remarkable registered letter posted from Pondichéry on April 27, 1904, franked with three of the 1903 overprints to Metz in the Lorraine, which was part of Germany at this time. (Figure 18) The letter is franked at the correct 50c registered overseas rate based on a revalued envelope (0,15 on a 25c Group Type envelope), the 0,15 overprint, the 0,05



Figure 18. Registered letter at the 50c rate to Metz franked with three examples of the 1903 overprints.

overprint on the fiscal stamp and a 15c Group Type stamp to complete franking. The letter was received at Metz on May 13, 1904. This is the first item of French India postal stationery that I have included in this article. It should be noted that French India received a full complement of postal stationery (postal cards, letter cards and envelopes), and use of such is not especially rare. Examples of such have not been shown at this point simply because rarer items have been favored. Additional examples of stationery are included in the sections that follow.

Pondichéry - The 1916 Envelope Overprints

Most of the French colonies received additional Group Type postal stationery in 1900 and shortly thereafter, wherein the colors had been altered to conform to UPU regulations. By the end of the decade use of Group Type stationery was on the wane as new pictorial stationery with images specific to each of the colonies was being developed. Apparently by 1916, French India still had an ample supply of all of the 15c and 25c Group Type envelopes (blue and gray stamps for the 15c envelopes and black and blue stamps for the 25c envelopes) that had been previously prepared for the colony. A group of ten envelopes (the envelopes came in various sizes) were overprinted in red with a 10 in the upper right corner of the stamp and a bar (/) through the numeral value of the stamp, thus creating a supply of envelopes reflecting the 10c French Community rate at the time. To my knowledge these represent the last overprints done on Group Type stationery by any colony. Proper use of any of these overprints is rarely seen. Shown in Figure 19 is an example of such. A revalued 25c blue on rose envelope was combined with a new 1914 30c pictorial issue to prepay the double weight (15c per 20–50 grams) registered (25c) French Community rate of 40c. This was posted in Pondichéry on March 10, 1916, and arrived in Neuilly on March 28.



Figure 19. Registered letter to France employing one of the 1916 revalued envelopes.

Pondichéry - Military Concession Rates

A military concession rate of 15c in lieu of the 25c French Community rate existed from the inception of the Group Type until January 1, 1899, when the French Community rate was lowered to 15c. To validate the rate, a commander's endorsement and signature or a unit cachet were required. Many of the French colonies had special military correspondence date stamps that were used in processing this mail, and these are a favorite of collectors. French India did not have a large military complement during the era of the Group Type, so very little mail reflecting this rate exists. Shown in Figure 20 is the 15c military concession rate posted from Pondichéry on August 1, 1895, to Bordeaux. The letter bears the octagonal military datestamp: **CORR.D.ARMEES PONDICHERY, 1 AOUT 95** and a French Packet transit from August 5 via Line N. The validation was achieved by the marine unit cachet: **CORPS DES CIPAHIS DE L'INDE (COMMANDANT)** at the left. The letter was received at Bordeaux on August 25. This is the only Group Type example of the simple military concession rate from



Figure 20. Military concession rate of 15c posted from Pondichery on August 1, 1895.



Figure 21. Registered military concession rate of 40c from Pondichery in 1898.

French India that I have seen. The handstamp at the lower left is most probably an owner's mark. Figure 21 illustrates the registered military concession rate (15c + 25c = 40c) from Pondichery posted on October 26, 1898. An unusual combination of five Group Type stamps was used to prepay the rate, and the letter bears the same octagonal military datestamp as that in Figure 20. Interestingly, the military datestamp was not used to cancel the stamps on either of these letters, as was typical in other colonies, but it was used as a transit marking instead. The registered letter to Paris went via Brindisi and the Modan-Paris rail line and arrived in Paris on November 11. There is no manuscript endorsement and signature or military unit cachet on this letter. Since the addressee was a member of a French marine unit, the concession rate reflected his status in the military which would have been verified by the postman delivering the letter. It is often not known by collectors and dealers that military concession and military franchise letters were valid if either the sender or the addressee was a bona-fide member of a French or French colonial military unit.

Karikal

Karikal is the first of the smaller French enclaves whose postal history will be examined. It is located on the Indian coast about 140 kilometers south of Pondichery. Possibly the most outstanding philatelic characteristic about Karikal is that it used an unusual **INDE** letter obliterator surrounded by a square lozenge of dots for a period of almost twenty years from the inception of the Group Type through the first decade of the 20th century. No other French colony used a similar cancel during the era of the Group Type, although many colonies used initialed lozenge obliterations during the period of use of the General Issues. In fact, these may have been the inspiration for the Karikal lozenge obliterator. I recently did a short article on this obliterator, and would like to provide additional examples of its use herein.⁶ I have made it a collecting passion and been able to assemble fourteen different examples of its use. With so many examples in my collection, one might think that it is relatively common. Yet it continues to command premium prices. This is probably due to its striking nature, which entices collector interests, and dealer support that typically identifies



Figure 22. Registered double weight letter illustrating use of the boxed **KARIKAL** obliterator.

it as rare. Undoubtedly, the striking nature of the cancel markedly improved the probability of saving examples of its use. Possibly the most spectacular example of the use of this cancel that I have is on the letter shown in Figure 22. It is a double weight registered French Community letter (2 x 15c + 25c = 55c) made up with a combination of 5 x 2c stamps, a 15c stamp and a 30c stamp, all nicely canceled with seven strikes of the INDE obliterator. The Karikal circular date stamps indicates that it was posted on October 31, 1900. It traveled via Brindisi, the Modane-Paris rail line (November 15, 1900) and the Paris Registry Office (November 16, 1900) finally arriving at its destination of Coulommiers on the same day. In addition to all of its philatelic elements, it is also a mourning cover.

Less spectacular, but still with important philatelic elements is the 0,15 on 25c postal stationery envelope from 1903 posted from Karikal at the 15c French Community rate with the **INDE** cancel posted to the colonial postmaster at Cayenne, French Guiana and shown in Figure 23. The cover bears an INDE KARIKAL, 17 JANV 05 date stamp plus a Cayenne receiving date stamp (unreadable date) on the reverse. French Guiana is a remarkable destination for mail from French India. Combining this with the overprinted stationery and the **INDE** cancel make for an exceptional cover. Possibly my favorite example of the use of this cancel is that shown in Figure 24, and it is a study in simplicity. In 1901 the French initiated use of the *franchise militaire*



Figure 23. Example of the 1903 revalued postal stationery used to Cayenne, French Guiana.

stamps, the so-called **F.M.** overprints. Each soldier and NCO on station was entitled to two of these stamps per month to send free letters within the French Community.⁷ This example with the first French *franchise militaire* stamp was posted from Karikal by an Indian sergeant (return address on the reverse) on May 30, 1904 to a fellow Indian soldier stationed at Pondichéry where it arrived on June 1. To my knowledge this is the only recorded use of this stamp from Karikal, and it shows a striking example of the **INDE** cancel.



Figure 24. Use of a *franchise militaire* stamp from Karikal to Pondichéry.

Not all mail from Karikal was processed with the INDE obliterator. Figure 25 shows a registered second weight level letter at a 50c rate from Karikal in 1912 to Paris employing the Karikal circular date stamp. The rate breakdown on this letter is 10c for the first 20 grams, 15c for the additional weight between 20–50 grams and 25c registration. The letter was received in Paris on February 11, 1912.



Figure 25. Registered letter weighing between 20–50 grams from Karikal in 1912.

Chandernagor, Yanon and Mahé

The remaining three enclaves are being grouped together for convenience, as very little mail is seen from any of them during the Group Type Era. Chandernagor, which was



Figure 26. From Chandernagor, a 5c envelope raised to the 25c rate.

located high up the east coast in India in a land-locked area near Calcutta, had but 35 French residents in 1900 according to Wikipedia. At this time I would like to show some early Group Type postal stationery, which has not been featured to this point. Shown in Figure 26 from this area is a 5c printed matter postal stationery envelope raised to the 25c rate with two 10c Group Type issues posted from Chandernagor on June 4, 1895 transiting to Paris on the Modane-Paris rail line on June 22. This example bears the old style date

stamp with two stars within the double circle. Figure 27 shows a 15c postal stationery envelope improperly used from Chandernagor on August 13, 1903, to Bruges, Belgium. At this time the 15c rate corresponded to the rate within the French Community, so the item was 10c underpaid and charged 20c due on arrival in Burges. The final item in this troika is a 25c postal stationery envelope (Figure 28) raised to the 50c overseas rate with a 30c stamp, and was thus 5c overpaid. The letter went from Chandernagor on January 16, 1905 to Marburg, Germany where it arrived on February 11. Undoubtedly, the sender



Figure 27. Underpaid overseas letter from Chandernagor to Belgium charged 20c due.

had the 30c stamp available and decided to use it rather than buy a proper 25c stamp. It should be noted that the 5c envelope only came in a small format, but the 15c and 25c envelopes came in small, medium and large versions, the choice of which was based on the sender's needs.



Figure 28. Overpaid registered overseas letter, 55c in lieu of 50c, from Chandernagor to Marburg in 1905.

The most significant item from Chandernagor in this section is shown in Figure 29. It is a registered wrapper (5c per 50 grams plus 25c registration = 30c) franked with a single stamp posted from Chandernagor on October 5, 1898 to Würzburg, Germany where

it arrived on October 22 via the Modane-Paris rail line and Dijon. The wrapper is franked with a single 30c stamp. Registered printed matter and post card rates are generally scarce, and even more so when franked with a single stamp, as was also the case in Figure 6.



Figure 29. Registered printed matter at the 30c rate from Chandernagor to Germany.



Figure 30. Simple 10c French Community rate from Yanon in 1906.



Figure 31. Registered seventh weight level letter from Yanon in 1906.



Figure 32. Overseas letter from Mahé in 1897 to Trieste..

The enclave on Yanon was located along the east coast of India approximately midway between Pondichéry and Chandernagor. Mail from Yanon is rare, and the strikes of its old style circular datestamp tend to be uniformly poor. In April 1906 the French Community rate became 10c per each 15 grams. Figure 30 shows a 10c rate letter posted at Yanon on August 8, 1906 to France franked with a 10c black stamp. The registered letter in Figure 31 represents a more unusual franking of 95c prepaid with four 5c stamps and three 25c stamps. It was posted on May 10, 1906 shortly after the 10c rate came into effect, and is thus a registered seventh weight level letter. I have noted no more than six Group Type letters from Yanon, with most of them being part of the Gardy correspondence as seen in Figure 31.

Finally we come to Mahé, the last of the small enclaves, and the only one located on the southwest coast of India. Shown in Figure 32 is a medium-sized 25c postal stationery envelope posted from Mahé on December 21, 1897 via the Modane-Paris railroad to the unusual destination of Trieste where it arrived on February 8, 1898. The final item from Mahé is shown in Figure 33. It is based on a large-sized 15c envelope brought to the 40c registered French Community rate with ten low-valued Group Types. It was posted on July 6, 1902 but did not arrive in Lyon until October of 1902. The reasons for the approximate three month delay in the delivery of this letter remain uncertain at this point.

The final item shown is a 10c Group Type Reply postal card. (Figure 34) The 10c Group Type postal card is usually among the most available of Group Type items as it saw extensive use from all of the colonies. However, proper use of a Reply card, from the Send-Reply pair, is quite rare. In the entire Group Type collection I have but six properly used Reply cards. Use of the Send half of these cards is relatively common, and sometimes they are seen still connected to the unused Reply card. The Reply portions are most frequently seen used as regular postal cards, never having been sent out as the intended pair. However, they were designed to provide a means of free postage for a message back to the sender from the addressee at the expense of the sender. They are most interesting when it is clear that this was how they were used, as is the case



Figure 33. Registered French Community rate of 40c from Mahé to Lyon in 1902 with a spectacular group of low value of Group Types.

spondence. This Reply card was placed in the mails at Salisbury, England, and the 683 Salisbury numeral cancel applied to a portion of the stamp along with a **SALISBURY AU 19 97** circular datestamp. The card proceeded within the British mails and received a **SEA POST OFFICE C, AU 30 97** transit enroute to the British post office in Mahé, British India. From the British Office at Mahé it was probably transferred to the French Office for delivery to or pickup by the addressee. When the British and French maintained post offices in the same postal entity, such as Karikal and Mahé, they had special agreements about handling mail franked with the other's stamps.⁸



Figure 34. Reply portion of a Send-Reply Group Type postal card mailed from Salisbury, England to the British Post Office at Mahé in 1897.

So ends this odyssey through the French Colonial Group Type of French India. But I have one closing thought. I have often commented to friends that one of the best things about collecting the French colonies, is that occasionally you follow-up and get to visit the French colonies. All are steeped in their own culture and history, and they have tended to absorb much French culture too. This is particularly true in the dining area, and it has been my pleasure to enjoy many delightful French-influenced colonial meals in Guadeloupe, Martinique and Saint Pierre & Miquelon. I have not been able to visit the former colony of French India. However, there is a wonderful restaurant, which I strongly recommend, near the Marble Arch tube station in London named La Port des Indes (<http://www.laportedesindes.com/london/>) that features the cuisine of French India, particularly that of Pondichéry. It is a wonderful fusion of the Indian cuisine of the area with strong French overtones set in a delightful Indian atmosphere. If in London and in need of something different for lunch or dinner, give it a try.

Endnotes:

1. For a discussion of the postcard rates in the French Community, see: R.E. Picirilli, "Postal Rates in the French Colonies, 1892-1944," *France & Colonies Philatelist*, Whole No. 250, 1997: 115-117.
2. A. Millet, "Correspondances Avec Timbres au Type Alphée Dubois", https://issuu.com/codaxa/docs/collection_alphee_dubois.
3. E. Grabowski, "Gleanings From the Group Type: Locally Fabricated AR Markings and Hand-stamps", *France and Colonies Philatelist*, Whole No. 301, 2012: 112-120.
4. E. Grabowski, "Reunion: The Use of Due Stamps in Lieu of Regular Postage Stamps for Local Mail – Update," *Collectors Club Philatelist*, 2001, Vol. 80, 2001: 59-60, and references cited therein.
5. E. Grabowski, "Guadeloupe: The Shortage of Low Values of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type Stamps For Use on Local Mail: December 1900 – January 1901," *Postscript* (Society of Postal Historians – UK), 2001, Vol. 226, 2001: 139-145.
6. E. Grabowski, "Karikal, French India – The Boxed INDE Cancellation," *France & Colonies Philatelist*, 2015, Whole No. 319, pp 8-9.
7. E. Grabowski, "The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Use of the French Franchise Militaire Stamps From the French Colonies," *OPUS XV 2014* (AEP Publication) 2015: 171-187.
8. E. Grabowski, "Gleanings From the Group Type: Some Observations on Karikal, French 8. India," *France & Colonies Philatelist*, Whole No. 305, 2011: 93-94. This article describes use of a French colonial 25c Group Type postal stationery envelope from the British Office at Karikal to Saigon and the Franco-British rules governing such.