

THE ERA OF THE FRENCH COLONIAL ALLEGORICAL GROUP TYPE

PART II: MADAGASCAR & DEPENDENCIES

Madagascar & Dependencies represents one of the most complex and postally rich regions for exploration and study during the Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type's use. The basic stamps (1c to 1F and 1c to 5F in some Colonies) were delivered in late 1892 as the first definitive issue for use throughout the twenty nine colonies comprising the French Colonial Empire. The names of each colony were printed separately on the basic Navigation and Commerce Allegorical designs. Original colors conformed to the current French choices, but new colors were issued in 1900 for some of the values to conform to UPU standards. Madagascar received its Group Type stamps in 1896 when it became a Colony. Surrounding Colonies received their own Group Type stamps on the indicated first date, and were subsequently placed under the administration of Madagascar on the second date: Anjouan – 1892/1911; Diego Suarez – 1892/1896; Grand Comoro – 1897/1911; Mayotte – 1892/1911; Moheli – 1906/1911; Nossi-Bé – 1894/1906; and Sainte Marie de Madagascar – 1894/1900. Nossi-Be and Sainte Marie de Madagascar were administered by Diego Suarez from 1894. In 1898 Anjouan, Grand Comoro and Moheli were made dependencies of Mayotte. Ultimately all of these entities became part of Madagascar & Dependencies and are examined in this exhibit. As administrations coalesced, stamps were interchangeably used amongst all entities. In 1912 Group Type remainders were overprinted **05** and **10** in Paris in an effort to consume existing stocks. These were extensively used throughout Madagascar & Dependencies. A full array of Group Type postal stationery (envelopes, postal cards and letter cards) was also prepared for all entities.

This exhibit examines all aspects of the use of the Group Type stamps and stationery, plus related postal practices (i.e. franchise mail, due mail, etc.) in all of what ultimately became Madagascar & Dependencies. The postal history of the area reflects the extensive development of French influence therein, particularly on the island of Madagascar itself. The outer colonies of Diego Suarez, Nossi-Be and Mayotte represent the areas of established French influence when the Group Type Era began, and serve to begin the exhibit. Examination of the Group Type Era of the remaining entities (Anjouan, Grand Comoro, Moheli and Sainte Marie-de-Madagascar) that ultimately became part of Madagascar & Dependencies follows chronologically.

Usage during the Group Type Era is developed via covers and postal stationery illustrating prevailing rates and postal practices within each of the subentities comprising the overall colony. The following standard UPU rates occur throughout the exhibit: 5c - printed matter including price lists, visiting cards, greeting cards, short message post cards (12 words or less), marriage and death notices, etc.; 10c - long message post cards, city until April 1906, return receipts and French Community from April 1906 until January 1917; 15c - military correspondence until January 1899, intracolony until April 1906 and French Community from January 1899 until April 1906; 25c French Community until January 1899 and foreign letter throughout. Multiple weights apply to all categories. Other rates are noted as encountered, particularly registration (normally 25c plus postage) and insured declared value letters (postage by weight, registration plus insurance based on value). The weight level was 15 grams until April 1906, when it became 20grams and 50 grams for the first two levels.

Mail from this area was typically carried to overseas destinations by the well-established Lines U and V of the French Packet service. Local wagon and motorized vehicle services, costal and river services, and limited rail lines carried the mails within and around the Colony. Since Madagascar is such a vast colony undergoing rapid development at this time, numerous examples of mail from the smaller villages are shown. This is most probably the largest accumulation of small village material ever assembled for the Era of the Group Type. A special section on Madagascar numeral cancellations is also presented. These were used provisionally as the colony was rapidly developing and the post office was unable to quickly provide datestamps in the standard village format. Reflecting the military's involvement in the developing colony, troops involved in combat prior to 1899 and all troops thereafter were entitled to military franchise privileges, and this example of non-use of the Group Type is examined very briefly during and at the end of the exhibit. Often this is the first category of mail from newly formed post offices. Misuse of the stamps as bisects (totally unneeded) and due stamps are noted. The exhibit concludes with a brief section on the use of the Group Type overprints created by the colony after World War I. These represent the latest official use of the Group Type stamps of any colony.

THE ERA OF THE FRENCH COLONIAL ALLEGORICAL GROUP TYPE: MADAGASCAR & DEPENDENCIES

The French Colonial Group Type was the first definitive stamp and postal stationery issue created for use in all of the French Colonies. Distribution began in late 1892. This exhibit examines its use and related postal history of the period from the eight entities that ultimately became Madagascar & Dependencies. The colony of Madagascar & Dependencies was officially established in August of 1896. However, a number of the colonial entities that became part of it were established prior to the creation of the overall colony. The exhibit is organized chronologically to reflect this history. The dates after each entity below indicate when it received Group Type stamps and when it became part of Madagascar & Dependencies. Military postal history is usually presented as encountered and not as a separate category except where noted. The exhibit is organized as follows:

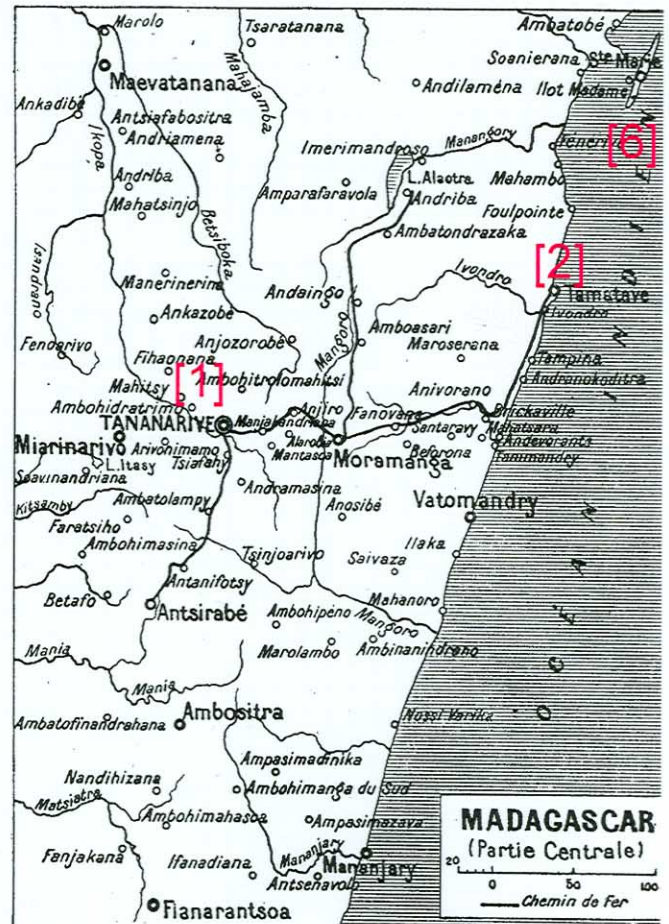
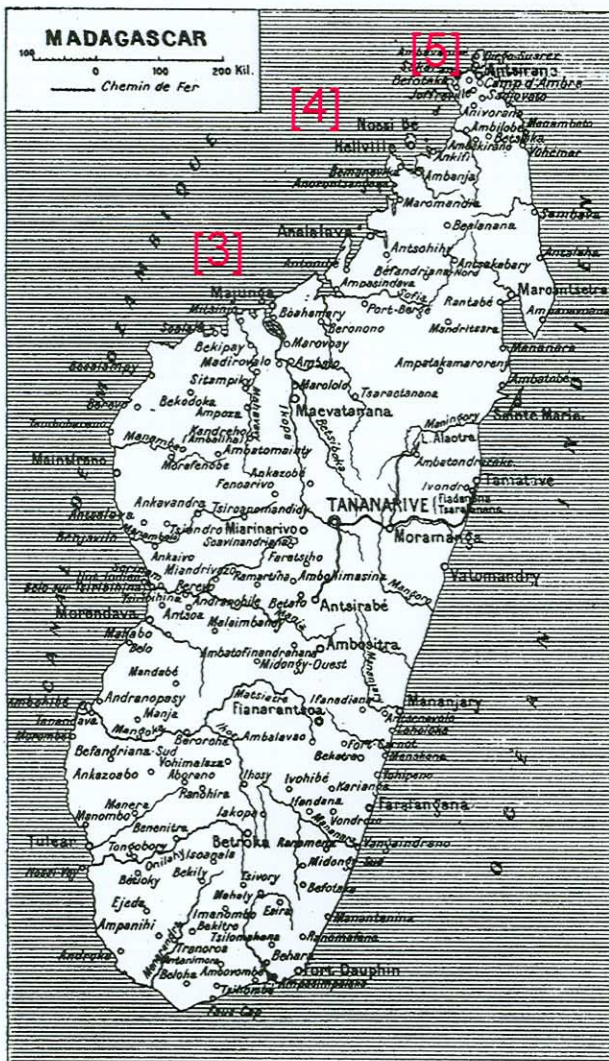
1. Diego Suarez & Dependencies: Diego Suarez-1892/1896; Nossi-Bé-1894/1906; Sainte Marie de Madagascar-1894/1900
2. Mayotte & The Comoro Islands: Mayotte-1892/1911; Anjouan-1892/1911; Grand Comoro-1897-1911; Moheli-1906-1911
3. Madagascar & Dependencies: Madagascar-1896/1896
 - a. Mail from the principal cities of Tananarive, Tamatave and Majunga
 - b. Small village use
 - c. Numeral and other provisional postmarks
 - d. Numeral datestamps on military franchise letters
 - e. Military franchise postal stationery
 - f. Use of French *franchise militaire* stamps from Madagascar
 - g. French Packet Service mail and Paquebot mail
 - h. The bisects of 1904
 - i. The overprints of 1921

The following UPU rates occur throughout the exhibit: 5c – printed matter including short message post cards; 10c – regular post cards, return receipts, and French community from April 1906; 15c – military concession rate until January 1899 and French community until April 1906; 25c – French community until January 1899, overseas and registration. Other rates are described as encountered. The standard weight level was 15g. Mail from this era was typically carried on French Packet Lines U and V which made regular stops in eastern and northern Madagascar.



MAP OF MADAGASCAR & DEPENDENCIES FROM LANGLOIS & BOURSELET
(Comoro Islands not shown)

MADAGASCAR & DEPENDENCIES



Maps of Madagascar (1927 Langois & Bourselet) – highlights include: the capital at Tananarive [1] in the approximate center of the island; the principal port city of Tamatave [2] on the east coast which was serviced by the Reunion-Marseille Line of the French Packet system; the western port of Majunga [3] where the 2nd military campaign began in 1895; the older colonies/dependencies of Nossi-Be [4] and Diego Suarez [5] in the north; and the island of Sainte Marie-de-Madagascar [6] on the east coast. Very little mail originated from the latter. The Comoro Island dependencies of Mayotte, Anjouan, Grand Comoro and Moheli are to the north, and are not shown. The railroad lines from Antsirabe to Tananarive and Tananarive to Tamatave can be seen in the detail map of the central portion of the colony. Numerous small village post offices can be seen. Not all post offices shown were in existence at the time of the Group Type's use.

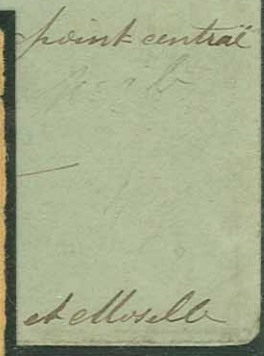
DIEGO SUAREZ - DIEGO SUAREZ & DEPENDENCIES

A French Protectorate from 1840, the area of Diego Suarez at the northern end of the island of Madagascar was ceded to France in 1855. In 1886 it became a colony of France, and in 1894 Nossi-Bé and Sainte Marie de Madagascar were made dependencies of Diego Suarez. In 1896 all of these entities were attached to Madagascar. Provisional stamps were first issued in 1890. The initial Group Type stamps of late 1892 bore the **DIEGO SUAREZ ET DEPENDANCES** name in the legend. In January 1894 this was changed to **DIEGO SUAREZ**. Proper use of stamps with the former legend during the first year of the Group Type's use is thus very rare.



Early use of Group Type stamps on registered letters from Diego Suarez: double weight registered letter (2 x 25c plus 25c registration, 5c overpaid) posted on Feb. 27, 1893, the earliest recorded use of Group Type stamps in this collection; and sixth weight registered level letter (6 x 25c plus 25c registration) franked with a 75c provisional and a 1F Group Type. Both show the **DEPENDANCES** version of the legend.

Diego Suarez
Military Concession Rate



Until January 1899 a military concession rate of 15c existed in lieu of the 25c French Community rate for soldiers on station but not engaged in combat. Validation of the rate by a manuscript endorsement and commander's signature, a unit cachet or a military datestamp was required. Shown are two examples (stationery and stamp) with the **DEPENDANCES** legend from 1893, and one with the **CORR D ARMEES DIEGO SUAREZ** octagonal datestamp from 1894.

Diego Suarez
Registered Multiple Military Concession Rate



The above letter illustrates an extremely rare triple weight (3 x 15c for a 30 – 45 gram letter) registered (25c) military concession rate posted from Diego Suarez on February 29, 1897 to Rochefort where it arrived on March 18th. It shows use of the second style of octagonal military datestamp: **CORR D ARMEES DIEGO SUAREZ**, with proper validation on the front of the envelope.

Diego Suarez
Military Origin Mail



Letter posted by a member of the Health Service to Germany to which the military concession rate did not apply since it was valid only within the French community. It traveled at the regular 25c foreign rate on February 4, 1894 via French Packet Line V (**MARSEILLE A LA REUNION LVN°3, 5 FEVR 94**) to Munich where it arrived on March 4th.



Letter posted on a ship of French Packet Line V bearing the rare **CORR. DES ARMEES LV N°2, 29 AVRIL 93** datestamp, most probably applied in error. It should have been processed with a regular Line V datestamp, shown as a transit marking above. The simplest explanation for this occurrence is that this letter was mixed in with concession rate mail.



In January 1899 the French Community rate became 15c and the military concession rate ceased to exist. Mail originating in military areas was still frequently marked with manuscript endorsements as these letters endorsed **Corps d'occupation de Madagascar** show. They are from the same correspondence and illustrate two ways for prepaying the 40c registered French community rate (15c postage and 25c registration).



Letters sent unpaid from Diego Suarez were treated as standard due mail as this local letter from 1902 shows. Possibly the sender thought that the addressee was due full military franchise, but such was not the case. The local rate was 15c, so the letter was charged 30c due with a strip of three of the 10c Duval issue. There was an apparent and undocumented shortage of stamps in January 1907 in Diego Suarez, and it was apparently possible to prepay the postage in cash. This letter is marked in manuscript: **12/affranchissement percu a numeraire** indicating prepayment in cash.

**Diego Suarez
Advertising Covers**

Because Diego Suarez was a long-standing French Colony on the island of Madagascar, had a strong French military presence and was one of the regular French Packet stops, it became the island's initial commercial center. It is the only French controlled area during the Group Type's use from which one sees a variety of advertising covers. These are examined in this section of the exhibit.



Commercial covers to the island colony of Nossi-Bé. The first is at the 15c local rate in December 1898. As an intercolonial letter it could have traveled at the 25c French community rate, but since Nossi-Bé was under the administration of Diego Suarez at this time, mail traveled at the local rate. The second letter traveled at the registered (25c) triple weight French community/local rate (3 x 15c) to Nossi-Bé in 1903.

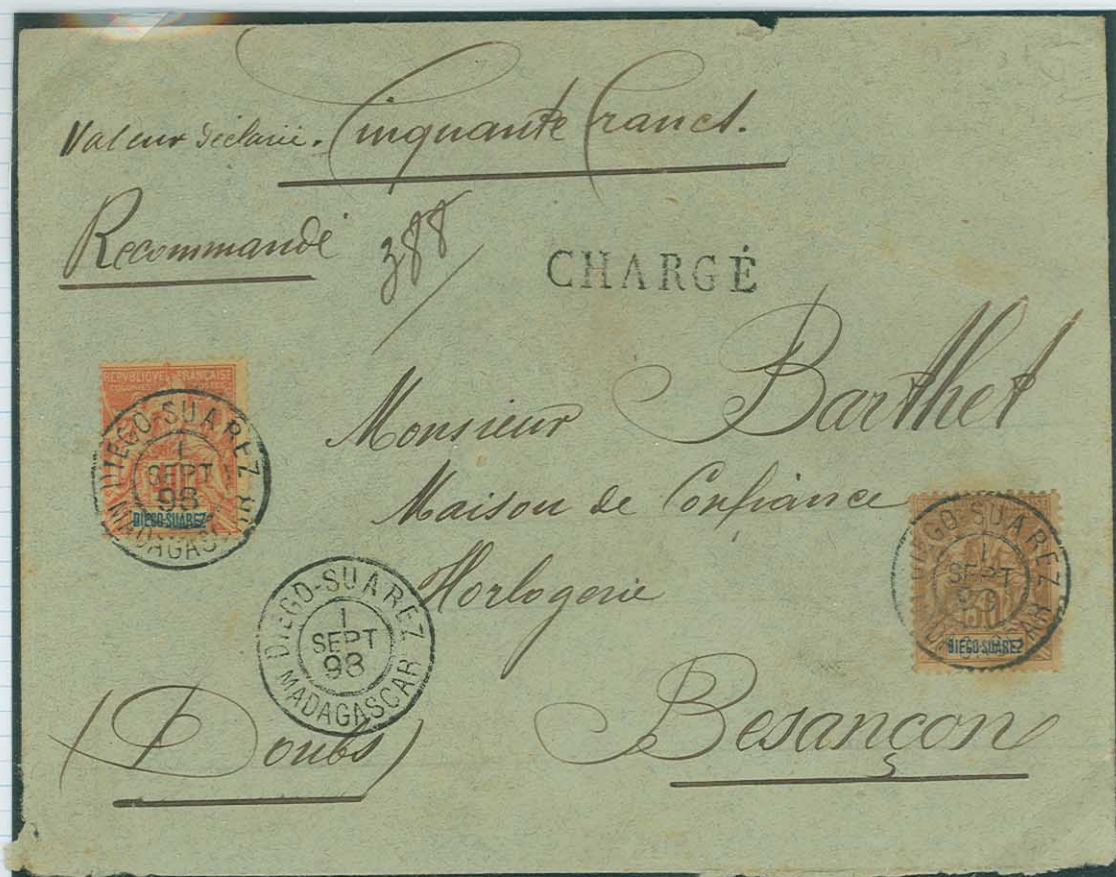


Advertising envelopes showing the changes in design over time from the firm of G. Roubelat in Diego Suarez in 1907, 1908 and 1913 at the 10c French community rate (effective in 1906) and the 35c registered French community rate. By 1913 all entities were now under the Madagascar administration and all of their stamps were valid for use. Shown are examples of the 1912 revaluations of the Group Type and Zébu issues.





Unusual declared value letter showing late use of the 40c Group Type issue on a letter posted from Diego Suarez on Nov. 17, 1916 to Rome, but forwarded to Milan. Apparently no declared value cachet was available, so the charges were verified by the postal clerk at departure. Prepaid at 75c, the charges were: 25c for overseas postage on 14.5 grams weight; 25c for registration and 25c for international insurance on a declared value of 25.25F.

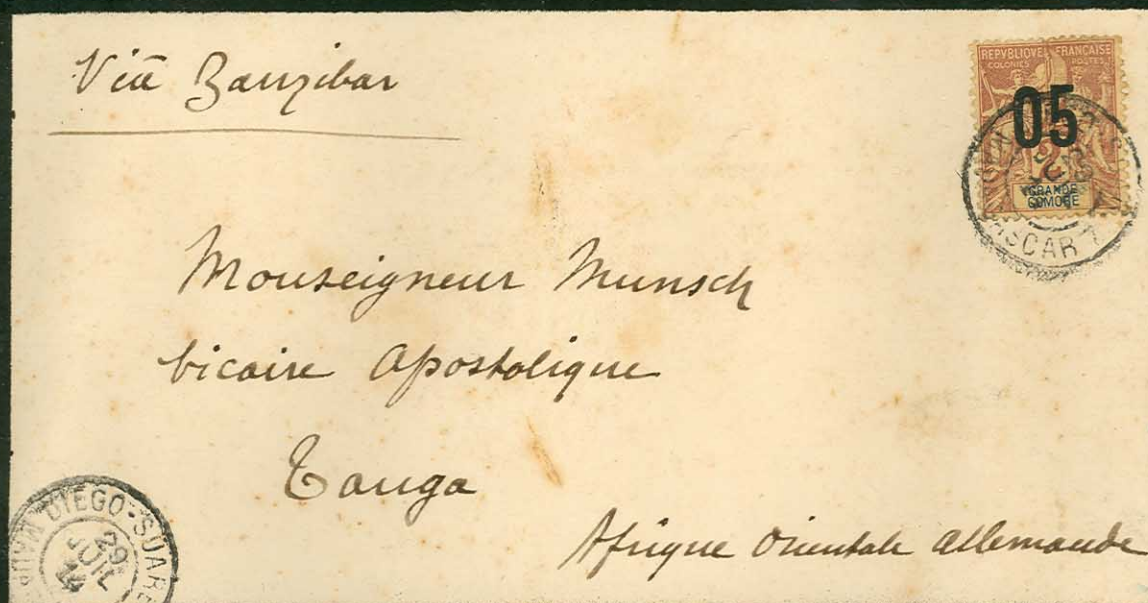
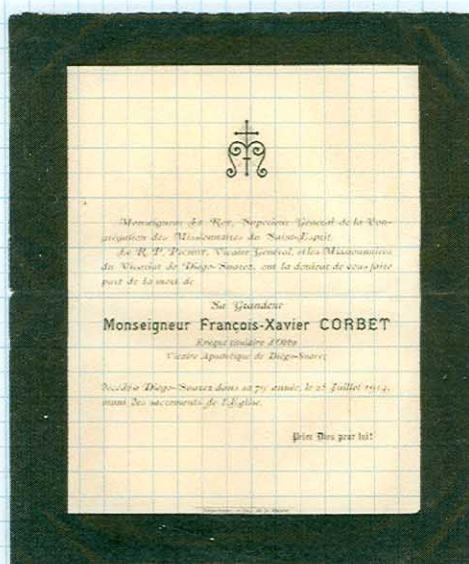


Insured money letters from Diego Suarez: the first franked at 70c to Besançon, France in 1898 with charges as follows – 25c postage on a weight of 11.30 grams (from declared value cachet on reverse, see above); 25c registration; and 20c insurance on a declared value of 50F. The second is franked at 1F35c posted to Bastia, Corsica in 1908 with charges as follows: 10c postage on a weight of 13.00 grams; 25c registration; and 1.00F insurance on a declared value of 2200F.

Diego Suarez
Registered Parcel Tag
Printed Matter



Parcel tags are rarely seen during the period of the Group Type's use, as they were kept by the post office upon delivery of the parcel. This one is franked at 60c which includes 25c for registration and 35c for the parcel based on weight. Additionally, two 5c printed matter rates are presented: the first from 1894 based on a postal stationery envelope; and the second employing the rare 1902 overprint with the **DIEGO SUAREZ** legend.

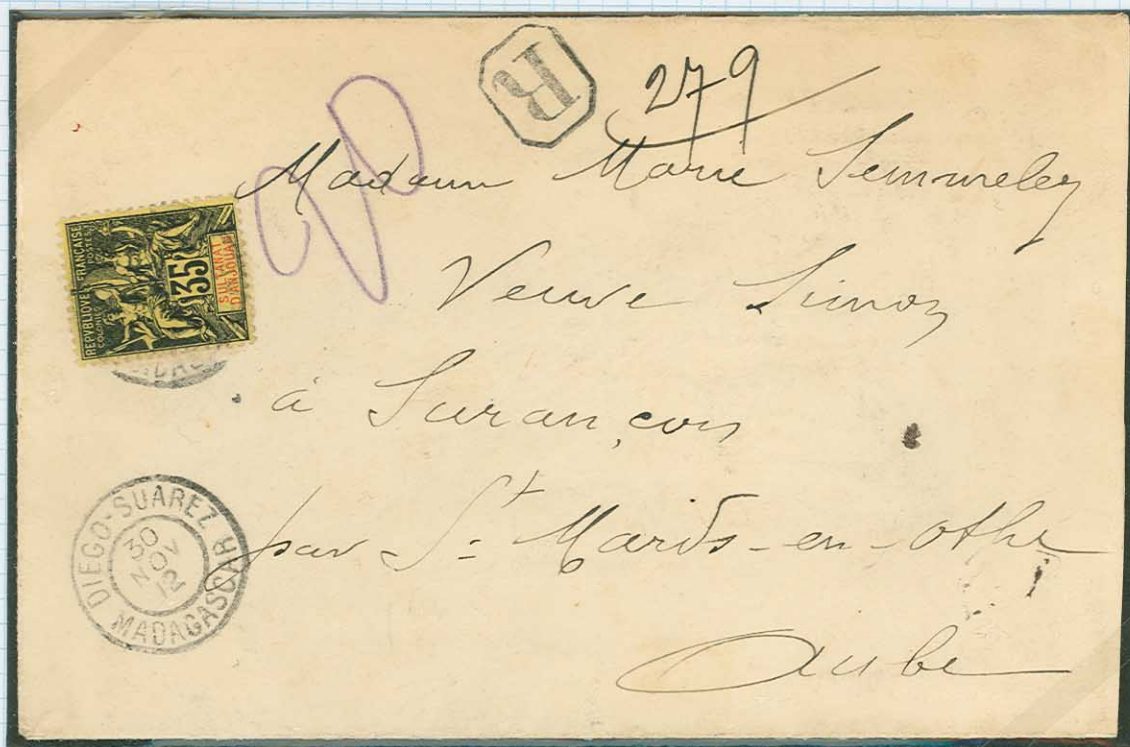


Occasionally, a printed matter piece survives that represents both postal and cultural history. The mourning notice above was posted from Diego Suarez on July 29, 1914 to the German colony of Tanga properly franked with a 5c 1912 overprint on a Grand Comoro stamp. The reverse shows a very late October 7th Zanzibar transit, but no Tanga arrival. Given the destination, this represents a very desirable piece of postal history. The nature of the notice is classically French in character, announcing the death of a member of the missionary group at Diego Suarez. Few of these large-format death notices survive from the French colonies.

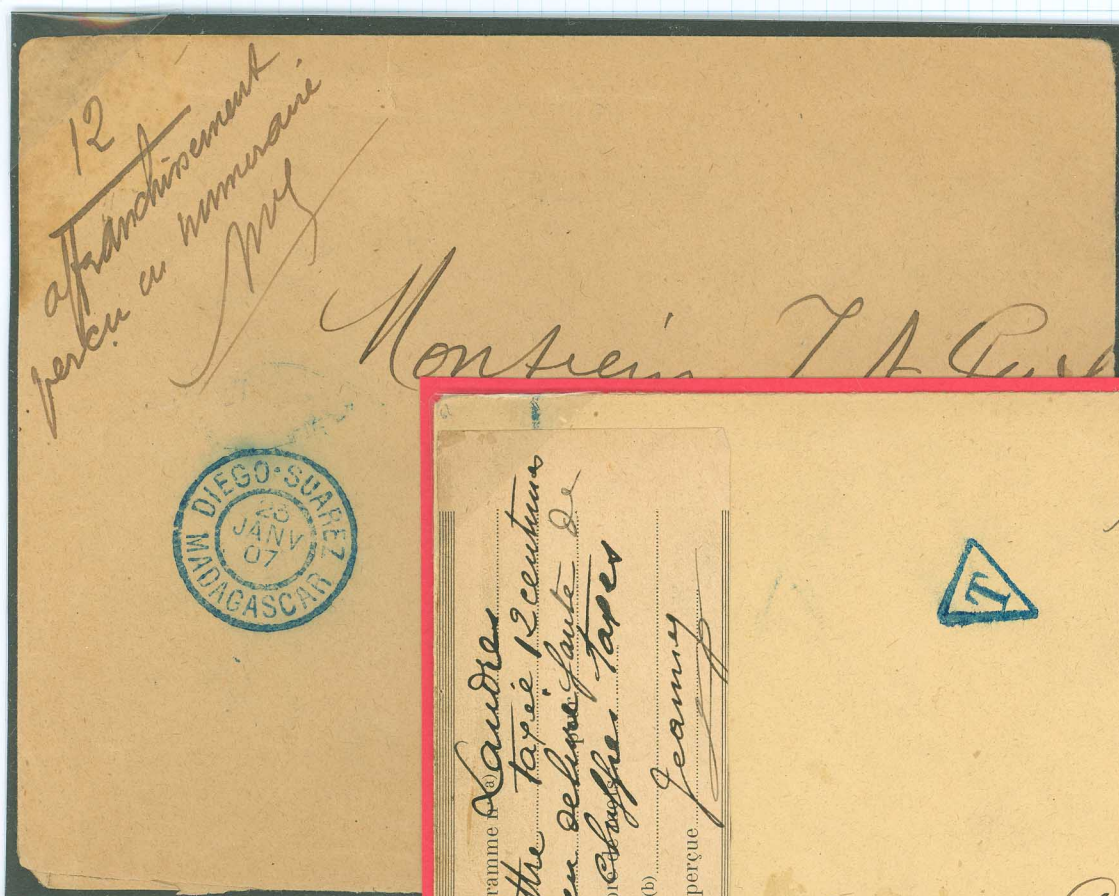


Double weight registered letters (50c postage plus 25c registration) from Diego Suarez in 1894 and 1902 to Bucharest, Rumania, and Apolda, Germany. The former is a most unusual destination.

Diego Suarez
Overseas Registered Rate
Registered French Community Rate



Late use of Group Type issues from 1912 – 1913, the first prepaying the 50c overseas registered rate to Reunion in combination with a 10c pictorial issue; and single use of the 35c Group Type stamp prepaying the French Community rate of 35c (10c postage and 25c registration). Single use of a 35c stamp for the later rate is uncommon.

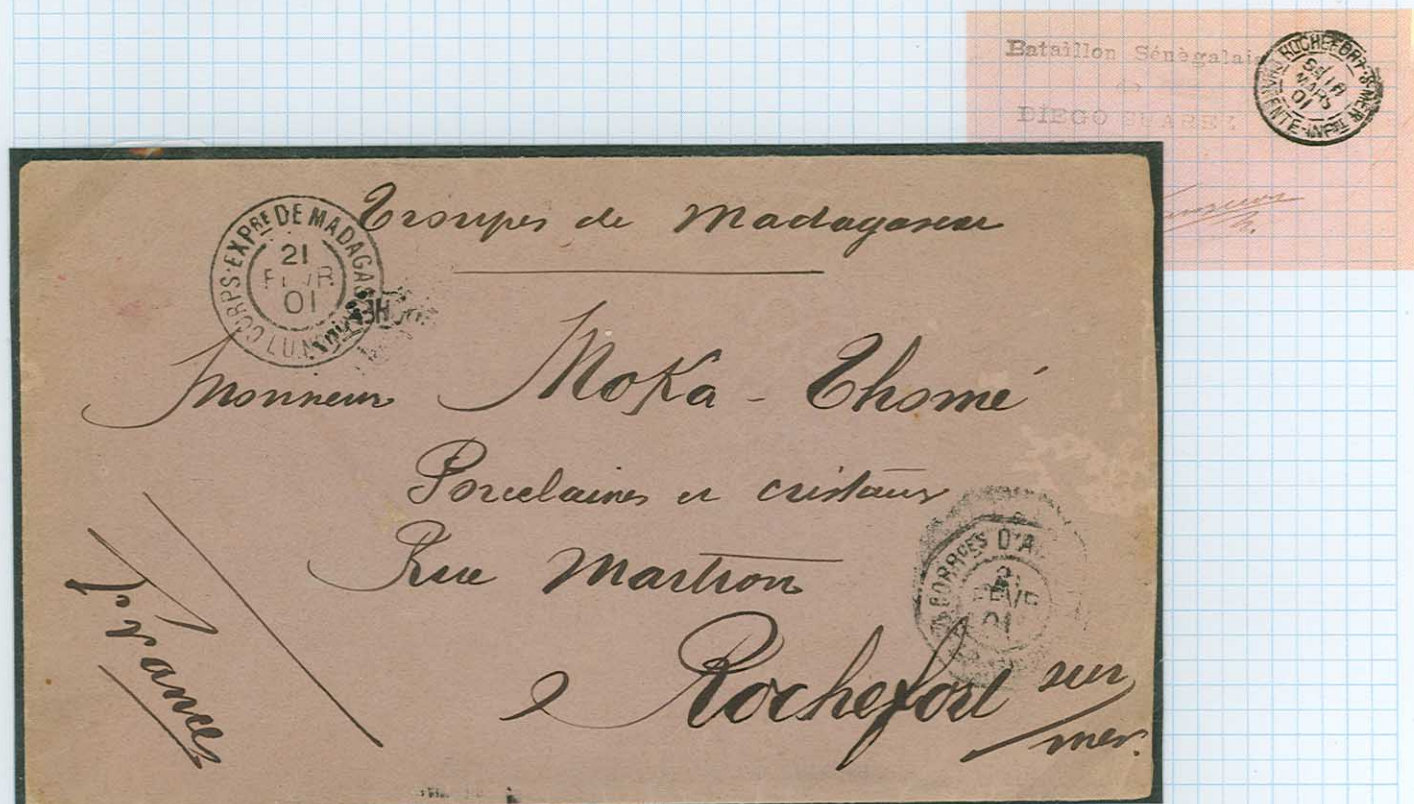


Unpaid 15c local letter from 1902 properly charged 30c due with Duval Type due stamps. There was an apparent shortage of stamps in Diego Suarez in January 1907, and mail could be prepaid in cash, 10c in this case, as the **12/affranchissement perçu a numeraire** endorsement on the second letter indicates. The latter letter indicates that there was also a shortage of due stamps at this time, and special receipt etiquettes were used as the last letter shows. This was a double weight letter (2 x 10c) franked 6c short at 14c and charged double the shortage due via this etiquette.

Diego Suarez
Post Card Rate
Military Franchise Letter



Post card at the 10c rate from Diego Suarez in 1903 and franked with a 1903 overprint to the rare British Colonial destination of Saint Helena via Zanzibar and Lourenzo Marques. Thus it was handled by French, Portuguese and British colonial administrations.



While engaged in combat, colonial troops at Diego Suarez were entitled to full military franchise as this 1901 letter shows. It bears a **CORRÈS D'ARMÉES DIEGO SUAREZ** octagonal military datestamp and a French Packet Line U transit military datestamp. The authorization on the reverse bears the cachet: **Bataillon Sénégalais de DIEGO SUAREZ: 1 Compagnie** indicating that troops from Senegal had been transferred to Madagascar.

NOSSI-BÉ (UNDER DIEGO SUAREZ ADMINISTRATION)

Nossi-Bé, an island off of the upper north west coast of Madagascar, had a long-standing association with France that began in 1840. It was placed under the administration of Diego Suarez in 1881, and received its Group Type stamps in 1894. Prior to that, the Group Type stamps with the **DIEGO SUAREZ ET DEPENDANCES** were used. It became part of Madagascar in 1896 when Diego Suarez did.

Military Concession Rate
Overseas Rate



Rare early use of the **DIEGO SUAREZ ET DEPENDANCES** stamps from Nossi-Bé in 1893 at the 15c military concession rate, and at the 25c overseas rate to Paris and London. During this early period the **NOSSI-BÉ ILE DE NOSSI-BÉ** datestamp was in use.

Nossi-Bé
Overseas Rate
Registered Overseas Rate



Overseas single weight postal stationery envelope posted from Nossi-Bé in May 1894 the first year in which Nossi-Bé stamps and stationery were available. The letter initially traveled with French Packet Line V which connected with Line T. The subsequent 25c envelope was brought to the 50c registered rate in September 1896 with a 25c stamp with the **DIEGO SUAREZ ET DEPENDANCES** legend in 1895.

Nossi-Bé
Military Concession Rate
Overseas Rate



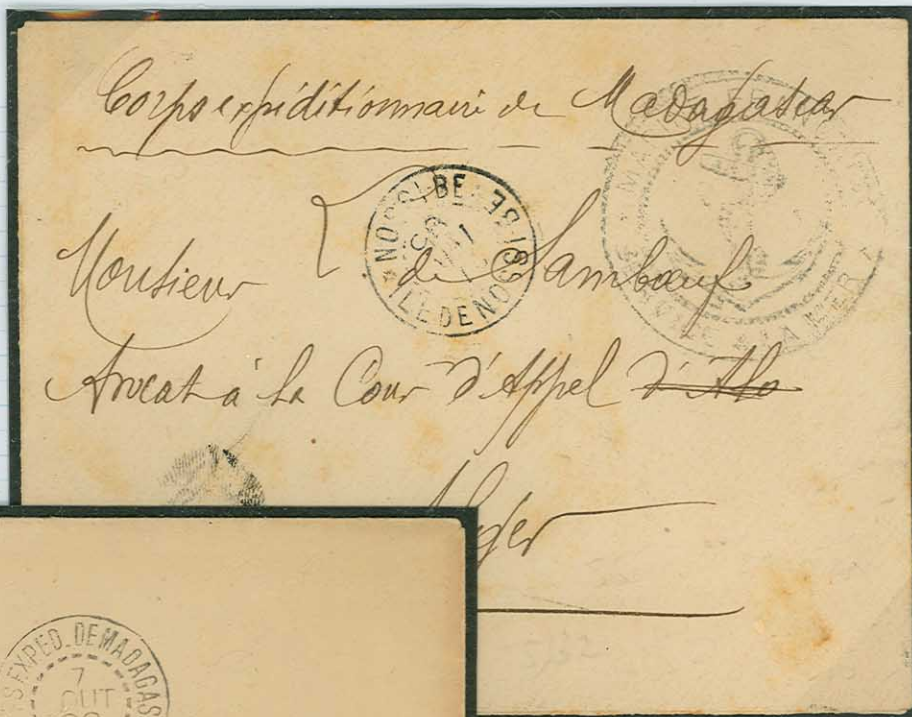
Although **NOSSE-BÉ** stamps became available in 1894, **DEPENDANCES** remainders can still be found used as these examples of a military concession rate and double weight foreign rate to Germany from 1895 show.

Nossi-Bé
Hellville Cancel
Post Card Rate
Printed Matter



The principal village on the island of Nossi-Bé was Hellville and it received its datestamp in the late 1890's. Shown are three postal cards showing use of this datestamp in black, blue and red on cards to India (1897); Germany (1902) and Russia (1902) employing Nossi-Bé and Madagascar stationery. Also shown is a 5c Madagascar envelope with late use of the datestamp (1910). All examples are from the Madagascar administration.

Nossi-Bé
Military Franchise Letters

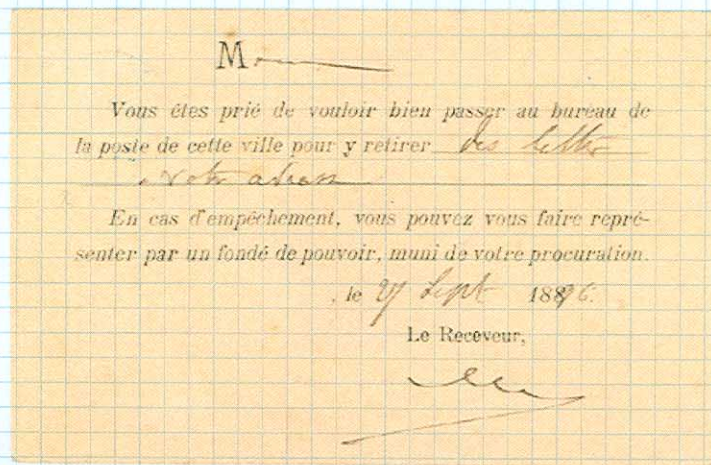


Military franchise letters from Nossi-Bé during the 1895 – 1898 period illustrating the cachets from different military units present in the area (Marine, Medical and Government) along with the **NOSSI-BE ILE DE NOSSI BE** and **HELVILLE NOSSI-BE** datestamps. French Packet Madagascar Expeditionary Forces datestamps are also present on these letters.

SAINTE MARIE DE MADAGASCAR

Sainte Marie de Madagascar is a small island off of the northeast coast of Madagascar, and its history suggests that the French were not quite sure what to do with it. It was acquired by France in 1750, but abandoned from 1754 until 1818. It was attached to Reunion in 1818 and then to Mayotte in 1843. It was a separate colony from 1853 – 1876, reattached to Reunion in 1876 and thence to Diego Suarez in 1888. In 1894 it again became a separate colony and received a full issue of Group Type stamps. In 1896 it was attached to Madagascar.

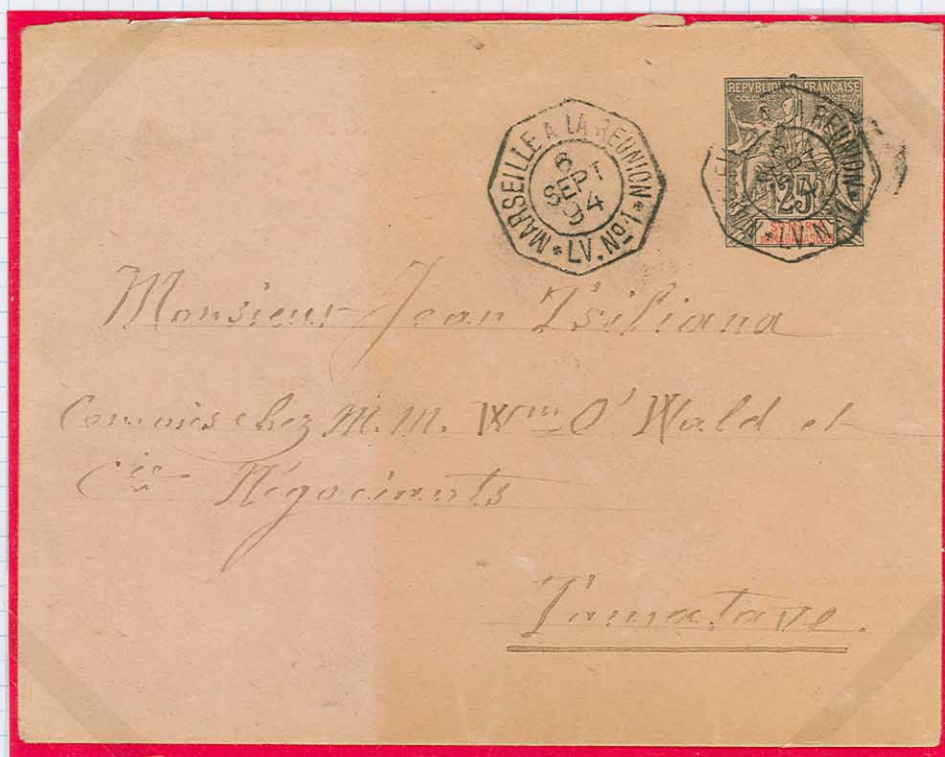
The island was of no military importance and it had no significant commercial value. It had a very small literate population. In principal, letters franked with Diego Suarez et Dependences Group Type stamps should exist, but none have been recorded to date. The reasons for providing it with its own set of Group Type stamps and stationery appear lost to history. Given these circumstances, any mail from this entity, particularly from the 1894 – 1896 period prior to its attachment to Madagascar, is extremely rare.



In 1888 the colony was provided with a single formula post card similar to ones in use in France and some of the larger colonies such as Guadeloupe, Reunion and Senegal. Why this was done remains uncertain, given the small size and lack of importance of the colony. **The exhibitor is aware of two properly used examples of this formula card**, one of which is shown above. It is franked at a 5c rate with a Sainte Marie Group Type stamp for an official post office notice. The reverse contains a notice of receipt of a letter at the Sainte Marie post office.

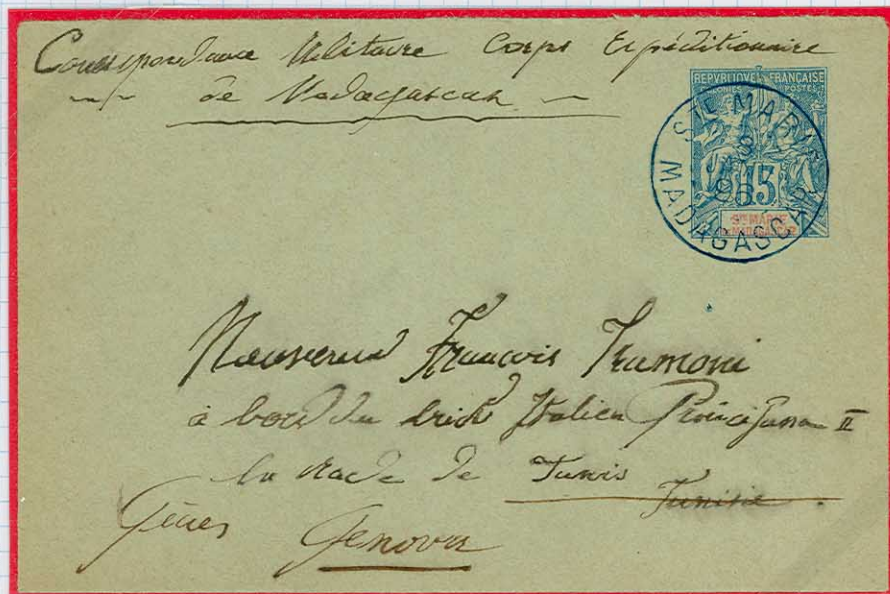
**Sainte Marie de Madagascar
French Packet Letter**

Madagascar was served by the Reunion-Marseille/Marseille-Reunion French Packet Line. Typically the line used octagonal datestamps, and used the Line U or Line V identifier depending on the specific year in question. During the 1888 – 1896 period the ships from Marseille stopped at Mayotte (with auxiliary service to Majunga), Diego Suarez, Sainte Marie and Tamatave enroute to Reunion and Mauritius. Letters for the French Packets were typically collected and cancelled at the local post offices and brought to the packets, or they could be directly posted at the docks or on board the ships. In the latter cases the stamps were cancelled by the packet line datestamps.



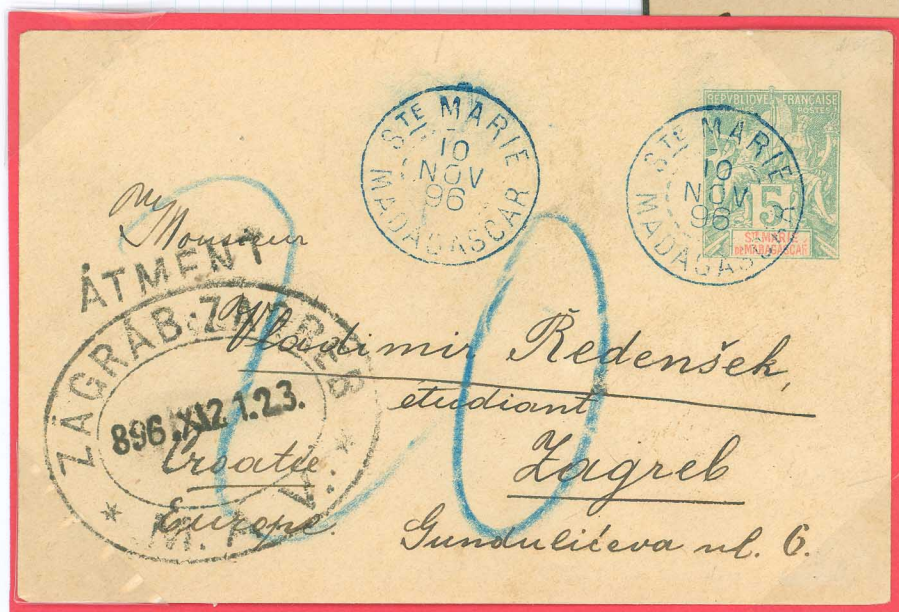
Shown is a 25c Sainte Marie de Madagascar postal stationery envelope posted at or on board the French packet Iraouaddy at Sainte Marie enroute to Tamatave, the next stop on the line. The letter was cancelled by the Line V octagonal datestamp: **MARSEILLE A LA REUNION LV N° 1, 6 SEPT 94**. Given that Sainte Marie received its Group Type stamps in April 1894 this is an extremely rare, and possibly unique, combination. The packets ceased calling at Saint Marie in 1897 because of the low volume of mail. At first glance, the 25c rate seems incorrect. However, in 1894 Sainte Marie was under the administration of Diego Suarez, and the colony of Madagascar proper was still forming. Thus the applicable rate was the intercolonial or overseas rate of 25c as correctly shown.

Saint Marie de Madagascar
Military Concession Rate
Military Franchise Letter



The military concession rate of 15c in lieu of the 25c French Community rate was valid until January 1899. The only recorded example from Sainte Marie de Madagascar is shown above. It is based on a small format 15c Group Type envelope and was posted in January 1896 to the unusual destination of Tunisia. Since this was within the French Community, the rate was valid. Also shown, and of comparable rarity, is a military franchise letter from 1898 with a cachet of the local health service and a manuscript endorsement with signature to validate the franchise.

Sainte Marie de Madagascar
Overseas Rate
Registered Letter
Printed Matter – Paris
Printed Matter – Zagreb



Early postings from Sainte Marie: 25c rate to France in 1897 under Madagascar administration; 50c registered rate to France prior to the period of Madagascar administration, so the 50c rate between colonies applied, not the intra-colonial rate of 40c; 5c printed matter to Paris in 1894; and 5c printed matter to Zagreb in 1896, an exceptional destination for Sainte Marie mail, but unaccepted as printed matter and charged 20 filler due for the regular mail rate.

Sainte Marie de Madagascar
French Community Rates
Registered French Community Rate



Double (2 x 15c) and triple (3 x 10c) French community rates on 1904 and 1906 letters and double registered French community rate (2 x 15c + 25c registration) in 1904 all to Amiens. All letters are from the Madagascar administration period and show use of Madagascar Group Type stamps. The R on the lower letter is not from standard post office issue, but was fabricated locally.

[illegible]

N° 1303

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

D'UN OBJET

CHARGÉ ou RECOMMANDÉ

Pour le bureau de **SAINTE-MARIE**

Département



An *Avis de Réception* form originating from Sainte Marie de Madagascar with a registered letter posted from Sainte Marie on March 3, 1913 to Tamatave where it was received on March 14th. The form was backstamped at Maronantsetra on April 13, 1913 enroute back to Sainte Marie. Maronantsetra is a small village on the northeastern coast of Madagascar above Sainte Marie. An Anjouan 1912 overprint was used to prepay the 10c rate. At this point, all of the stamps from Madagascar & Dependencies were used interchangeably throughout the colony. The form used for this service was designed specifically for Madagascar. This is an exceptionally rare usage; quite possibly unique.

Sainte Marie de Madagascar
Absence of the Group Type
Only Recorded Postage Due Letter



Unpaid letter posted locally in Sainte Marie de Madagascar on September 2, 1904. Apparently the local post office did not have a standard issue T in triangle used by French and French Colonial offices at this time, or such was unavailable. A manuscript **T 60c** was placed on the face of the letter indicating that 60c was due from the addressee. This suggests that this was a double weight letter (15 – 30 grams) which would have required 30c postage (2 x 15c), and was thus charged double the deficiency or 60c due. The charge was indicated by application of the 60c brown Duval colonial postage due stamp. This unspectacular letter is, based on the exhibitor's knowledge, **the only recorded postage due cover from Sainte Marie de Madagascar**. The addressee, Dr. A. Voeltzkow, was a noted German zoologist who frequently traveled in the Madagascar area gathering samples of plants, animals and minerals for himself and his colleagues at the University of Marburg. The letter card from the village of Imerimandroso in the Small Villages of Madagascar section of this exhibit was written in July 1904 by Dr. Voeltzkow. He notes in this card that he is proceeding from Lake Alotra, in the Imerimandroso area, to Fenerive and then Sainte Marie de Madagascar expecting to complete the journey at Tamatave in October 1904. This letter places him in Sainte Marie in September 1904, and serves to **validate the authenticity of this postage due cover**. To the exhibitor's knowledge, Dr. Voeltzkow was not a philatelist.

MAYOTTE AND THE COMORO ISLANDS

The Comoro Islands (Mayotte, Anjouan, Grand Comoro and Moheli) are situated off of the northwest coast of Madagascar. Mayotte became a French Colony in 1841 and it 1881 was administered by Diego Suarez. In 1911 it became part of the colony of Madagascar. D'Zaoudzi is its principal village. It received its Group Type stamps in 1892 along with other established French Colonies.



Early overseas letters (1895, 1898 and 1893) at the 25c French community/overseas rate from D'Zaoudzi to New York and Paris (2) illustrating the two styles of datestamp employed in this village.



Letters from the office at D'Zaoudzi at the double French community rate in 1904, and at the registered French community rate (15c postage + 25c registration) in 1900. The latter is to the small office at Le Kreider in Algeria.

Mayotte
Attempted Use of an Illegal Stamp



Attempted use of one of the Madagascar provisional overprints of 1895 (**POSTE FRANÇAISE MADAGASCAR**) to prepay the 25c rate in April 1896. Mayotte had not been placed under the administration of Madagascar as of this date, so the stamp was marked as invalid (small circles and manuscript X), and the letter forwarded as unpaid postage due as noted by the T in triangle. It was marked as 50c due upon arrival in Lyon (double the unpaid postage) and the appropriate French due stamp applied.

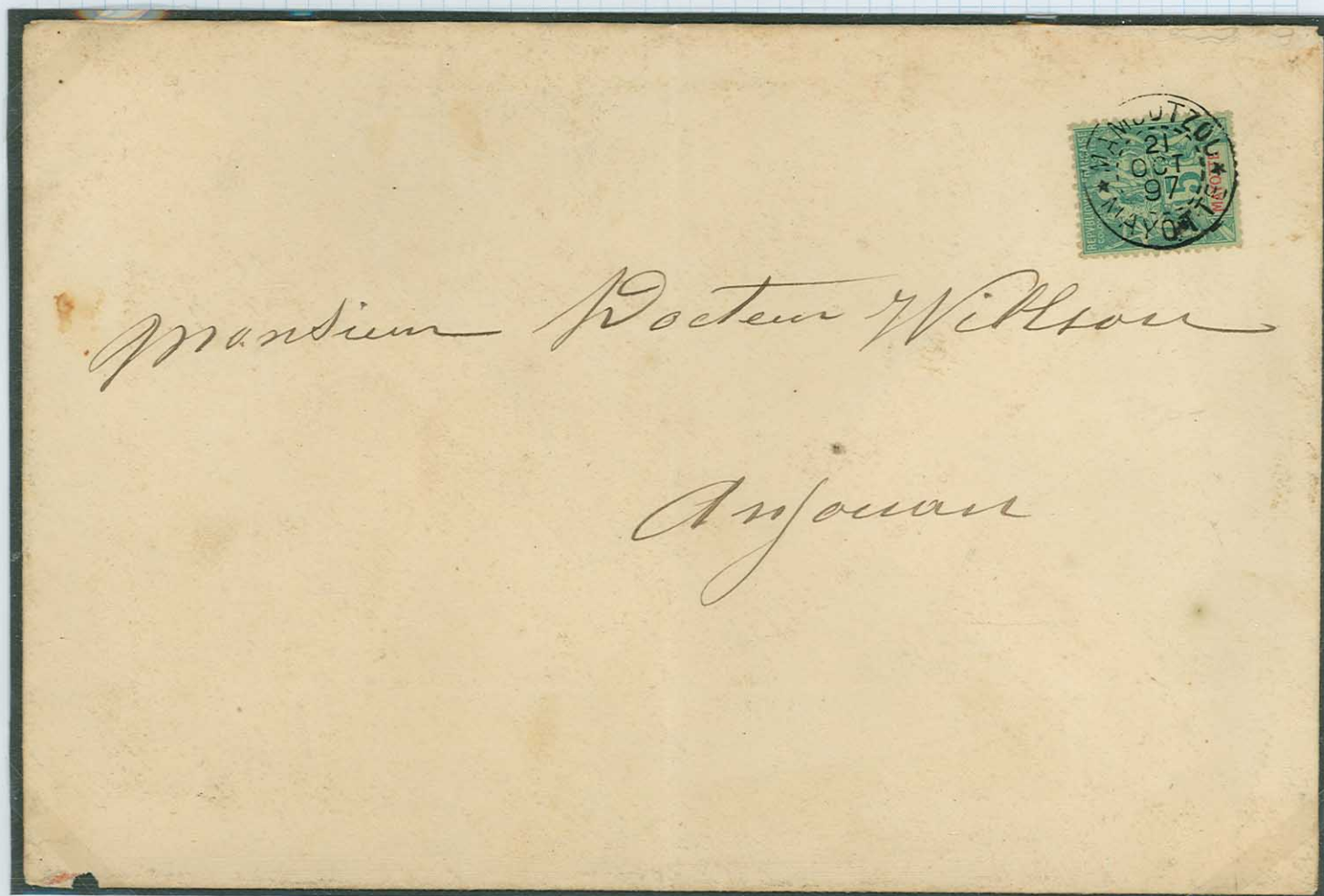
Mayotte
Small Office Use

In addition to the principal office at D'Zaoudzi, Mayotte had even smaller villages at Chingoni and Mamoutzou. Group Type letters are infrequently seen from these offices.

Chingoni



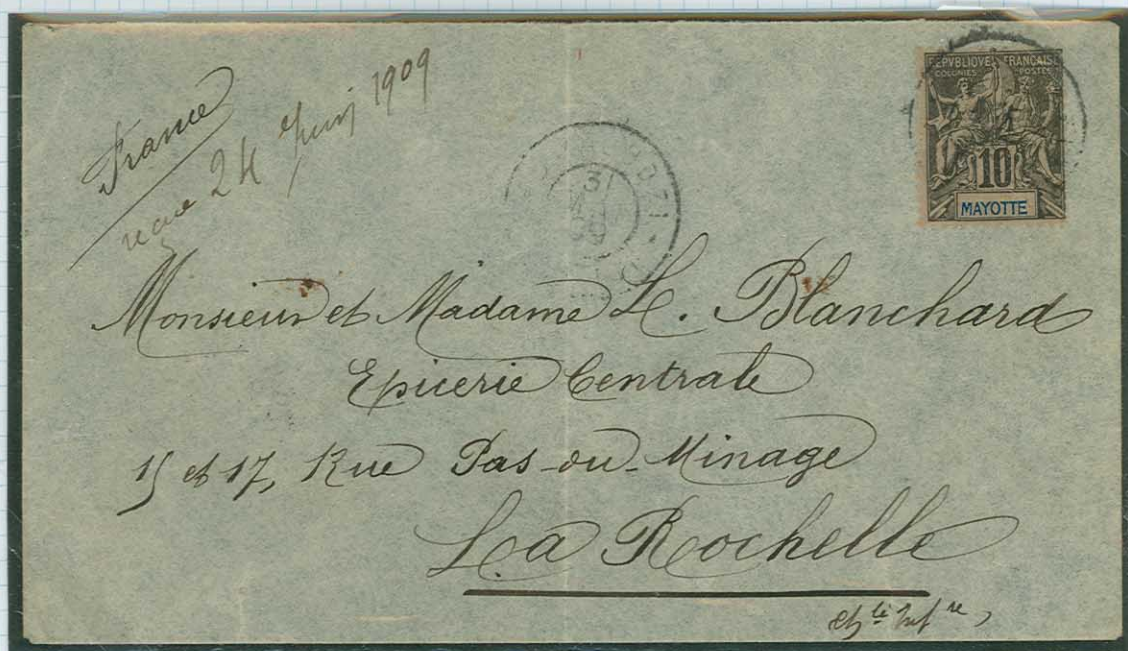
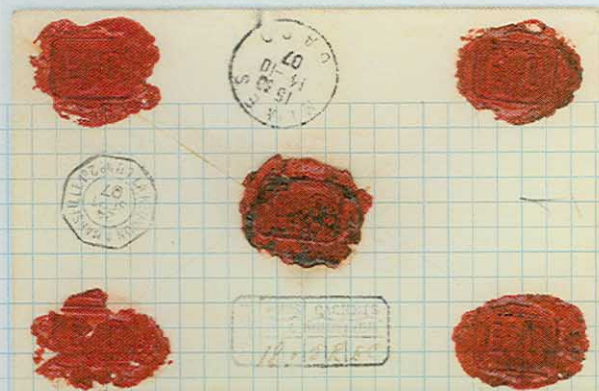
Mamoutzou





Postcard and overseas rate of 25c posted on December 30, 1897 from the small village of Mamoutzou. Note two different styles of circular datestamps.

Mayotte
Insured Money Letter
French Community Rate



Insured money letter (150F) from D'Zaoudzi on September 23, 1907 franked at 65c. The cachet on the reverse indicates that the letter weighed 18 grams (second weight level) and had five red wax seals with the security initials **E.C.** impressed into the wax. The rate breakdown is as follows: 20c postage (2 x 10c); 25c registration; and 20c insurance on the declared value of 150F. Declared value letters from the Comoro Islands are extremely rare. Below, the simple French community rate from D'Zaoudzi on May 31, 1909 to France.

ANJOUAN

France took possession of Anjouan in 1843 and established a Protectorate in 1866. Thereafter it became a colony. Its first definitive stamps were the Group Type received in November 1892. Prior to being placed under the administration of Madagascar in 1911 it was administered by Mayotte. Its principal village was Mutsamudu, though this name did not appear in the colony's datestamp until twenty years after the arrival of the Group Type.

The initial cancel used from this colony was the octagonal **ANJOUAN COL. FRANC.** datestamp beginning in 1892, which was supplemented with the octagonal **ANJOUAN PROTECTORATE FRANC.** datestamp in 1896. In the early 1900's an **ANJOUAN MAYOTTE ET DEPENDANCES** circular datestamp saw use. Packet service was provided by the Reunion-Marseille French packet line.

Registered Overseas Rate
Postcard Rate



Apparent registered overseas rate of 50c to Alsace-Lorraine (under Germany) in 1896, wherein the enclosed **R** normally applied to registered mail was left off. The number on the upper left of the letter appears to be a registry number. Also shown is the 10c post card posted to Germany in 1893. Despite its philatelic origin, a transit via D'Zaoudzi indicated the routing to the Reunion-Marseille Packet.

Anjouan
 French Community Rates
 Registered French Community Rate

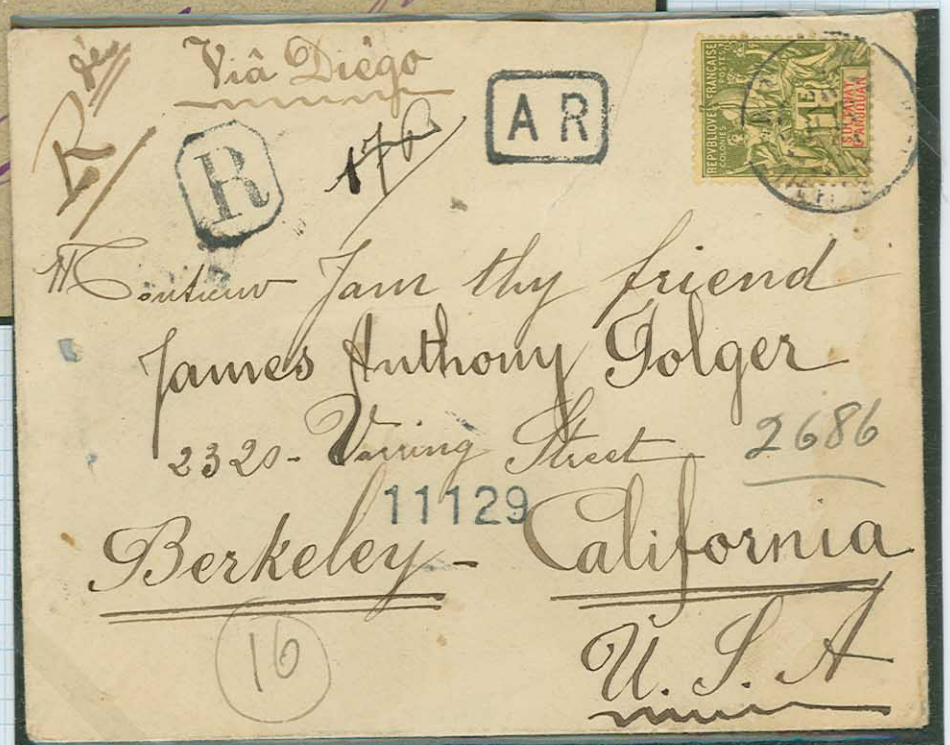


French Community rates of 10c (1907) and 15c (1903), the latter locally to Majunga, and registered French Community rate in 1899 which was picked up by the Reunion-bound French Packet on July 1st and returned to France on the Marseille-bound packet on July 6th.



Registered 1901 letter (date inverted) to Berlin using 20c and 30c to prepay the 50c rate; and fourth weight (45g – 60g) registered letter (1F postage + 25c registration) to the United States showing rare use of the 1F stamp. The addressee, Edw. De Z. Kelly, worked for a Boston export-import company.

Anjouan
French Community Rate
Overseas Rate
Registered Overseas Rate



Use of the **ANJOUAN MAYOTTE ET DEPENDANCES** circular datestamp of the early 1900's on a 10c French Community rate (1908), a 25c overseas rate to Italy (1909), and a triple-weight registered letter (75c postage and 25c registration) to the United states (1909) with a request for a return receipt (AR). The combination of the high franking and the request for a return receipt is rare. The 10c postage for the return receipt was applied separately to the receipt that accompanied this letter.

Anjouan
Registered French Community Rate
Single Use of the 45c Stamp



One of the rarest frankings within the use of the Group Type is the single use of a 45c stamp to prepay the double weight registered French Community rate – 2 x 10c plus 25c registration. The 45c stamp was only provided to eight colonies, as the others already had new pictorial issues to prepay the rate. The 45c stamp was rarely used as it was replaced by new pictorials in the colonies to which it was provided. Shown is use of the 45c issue from Mayotte on a double weight registered letter from Anjouan to Paris in 1913. The exhibitor has been conducting a survey of existing single 45c covers and has recorded only six to date, three of which are from French Oceania.

Anjouan
Mutsamudu Datestamp
Packet Letter – Absence of the Group Type



The principal village of Mutsamudu received its datestamp after 1911 when Anjouan was placed under the administration of Madagascar. Shown is a very late 1918 use of a Group Type stamp from this village on a letter to the United States. It was also possible to post letters directly on the French Packets so long as they were franked with stamps of the entity at which the ship was calling, or stamps of France. An example of the latter is shown on the 1901 double weight French Community letter from a business located on Anjouan and posted directly on the Reunion-Marseille Packet enroute to France. The letter is franked with two 15c Type Sage stamps of France, and employs a rarely-seen local Anjouan advertising envelope.

GRAND COMORO

France took possession of this island in 1843, and it was administered by Mayotte until it was placed under the administration of Madagascar with the rest of the Comoro Islands in 1911. It received its Group Type stamps in 1897. Two datestamps were used: an octagonal one similar to that of Anjouan which read: **GRAND COMORE COL.FRANC.**; and a circular datestamp with **GRAND-COMORE** within the double ring.



Shown are three 1898 postings from the colony: a 5c printed matter rate; a 25c overseas rate to France; and a double weight registered letter to France franked with a single 75c stamp.

*Chez Monsieur
Par ce même courrier vous re-
cevrez 2 cartes postales, 2 cartes
postales avec réponse, 3 cartes litté-
res et 6 enveloppes.*

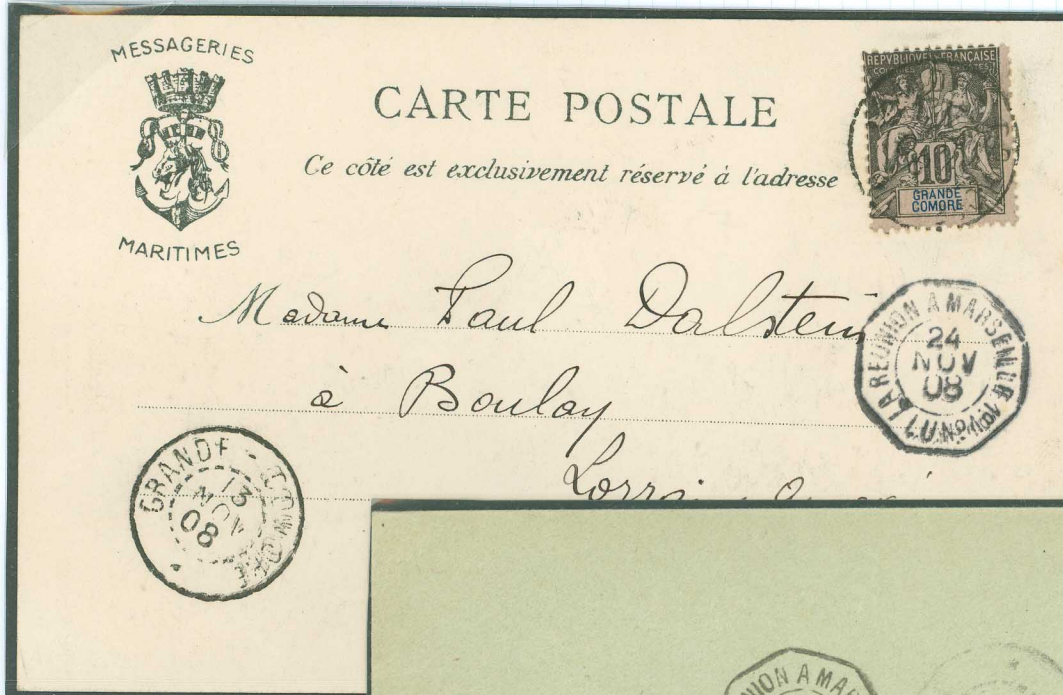
Le bureau de Poste.



Even remote and obscure areas such as Grand Comoro were sought after by the philatelic trade and philatelists. Frédéric Oertel and Alfred Berdoz are common addressees to anyone who collects turn of the century postal stationery. Generally the material addressed to both is very fine and well cared for. Shown are a letter card addressed to Oertel and an envelope addressed to Berdoz. The letter card is especially unusual. It was apparently addressed in an attractive calligraphic style by the post office at Grand Comoro with an established message inside regarding quantities of postal stationery that were being shipped. The actual numbers were added by manuscript. Both rates are the correct 25c overseas rate.



Grand Comoro
Postcard Rate
French Community Rate
Double French Community Rate



Postcard rate of 10c to Germany in 1908; 15c French Community rate to Paris in 1901 employing a 15c postal stationery envelope from the 1900 printing in new colors; and double French Community rate to Bordeaux in 1900 employing a rare single 30c franking.



Late use of the Mayotte 1912 overprints to prepay the double weight registered rate (2 x 10c postage plus 25c registration) on a 1917 letter to Paris. Since all of the entities were under the administration of Madagascar at this time, there is no special significance to the use of Mayotte stamps, as Group Type stamps were used interchangeably amongst all entities after 1911.

MOHELI

Moheli is the last of the four Comoro Islands, and the last to require development of a postal system. It received its Group Type issues in 1906, but required postal services before that date and had an active post office. It was formally administered by Mayotte.

Forerunners
French Community Rate
Registered Franchise Rate



Since it did not receive its Group Type stamps until 1906, Group Type stamps from the other Comoro Islands were provided to the office at Moheli on a provisional basis. Shown is a double weight commercial French community rate letter posted on October 19, 1902 employing two 15c stamps of Anjouan to Anjouan via Grand Comoro. The datestamp: **MAYOTTE-ET-DEPENDANCES MOHELI** was created for use in this colony. **This is possibly the earliest recorded letter franked with Group Type stamps from Moheli.** Alternatively, mail could be transported by local ship to one of the functioning post offices and franked there for transit as the second letter illustrates. It is from the French Resident at Moheli and was registered. The Resident had full franchise for postage, but was required to pay for registration. This letter was carried to Anjouan and processed at the post office there with 25c in Group Type stamps to prepay for the registration on the letter to France. Ex Stone

Moheli
Forerunners
Registered French Community Rates



Use of Grand Comoro and Anjouan stamps to prepay the quintuple registered French Community rate (5 x 15c postage plus 25c registration) from Mohéli to Paris in 1905; and use of a single 75c Group Type stamp of Grand Comoro to prepay the quintuple registered French Community rate (5 x 10c postage and 25c registration) on a 1906 letter also to Paris.

France
au G^d Hotel Bristol Central
à Cannes
Alpes Maritimes

Monsieur R. Gripon
~~22 rue de Madrid~~

VIIIème
Paris



French Community rate of 15c from Grand Comoro posted January 18, 1905 to Paris and forwarded to Cannes. Mail from Grand Comoro had to travel by local sailing vessel to Mayotte to connect with Line U of the French Packet service – note packet transit on the reverse. Apparently there was an accident enroute to Mayotte, and this letter suffered significant water damage. A special handstamp was created and applied in Mayotte: **Lettre parvenue en mauvais état - Naufrage d'un bouter de la - GRAND COMORO** (Letter received in poor condition - Shipwreck of a vessel from - Grand Comoro). Group Type wreck covers are extremely rare with a few recorded from the wreck of a Guadeloupe postal vehicle, and this one from Grand Comoro.

Moheli
French Community Rate
Overseas Rate



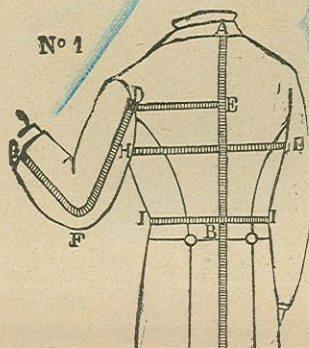
French community rate of 10c to Paris in 1906, and overseas rate of 25c to Vienna in 1907. The use of low value stamps during this period suggests that the Moheli post office had considerable supplies of them.

Grand Comoro
Government Franchise Mail
(to Zanzibar)

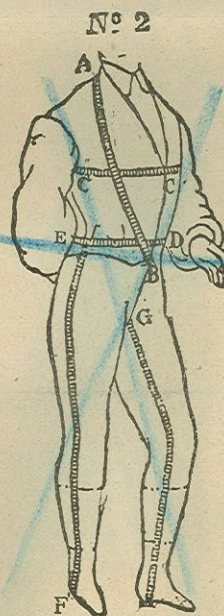
Colman officier
avec 4 poches
GRANDS MAGASINS
DE LA
VILLE DE SAINT-DENIS

MESURES A DONNER

PARDESSUS, JAQUETTES, VESTONS, ETC.



			M	C
Fig. 1	AB	Longueur de taille.	0	44
	ABC	Longueur totale du vêtement . . .	0	60
	DE	Largeur de la moitié du dos . . .	0	17 1/2
	DFG	Longueur de la manche . . .	0	56
	HH	Grosueur du corps sous les bras, prise sur le gilet . . .	0	85
	II	Grosueur de la ceinture . . .	0	73
GILET				
Fig. 2	AB	Longueur du gilet prise au milieu de la nuque . . .		
	CC	Grosueur du corps sous les bras, prise sur le gilet . . .		
	DE	Grosueur de la ceinture . . .		
PANTALON				
Fig. 2	DE	Grosueur de cein-		



N° 3

Service



Monsieur le Receveur de la Poste

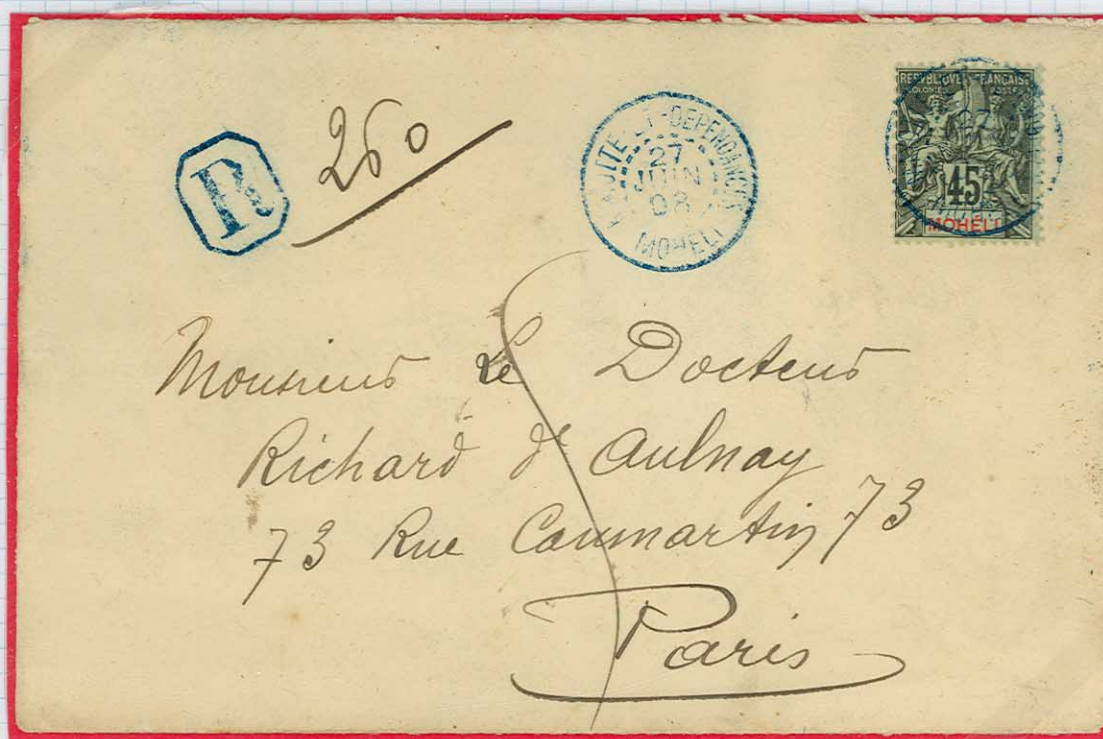
Le Receveur de la Poste
Henri Fournier



Zanzibar

Government franchise letter posted by the Postmaster of Grand Comoro on May 24, 1900 to the unusual destination of Zanzibar. Government franchise mail required the same validation as military franchise mail – government cachet, manuscript validation and signature of an appropriate official – all seen on the front of this envelope. This letter traveled via Line U of the Marseille-Reunion Packet to connect with a local sailing ship to Majunga (June 1st transit) on the west coast of Madagascar. It bears a June 26th arrival in Zanzibar. The contents of this letter are still present – apparently the Postmaster at Zanzibar also manufactured uniforms. The letter and order form contained herein are for the order of a military jacket.

Moheli
Registered French Community Rate
Single Use of the 45c Stamp



This is the second use in this exhibit of a single 45c stamp to prepay the double weight registered French community rate, in this case on a letter employing the 45c issue of Moheli on a letter from Moheli to Paris in June 1908. As noted previously, only six letters illustrating single use of the 45c stamp have been recorded, three of which are from French Oceania.

Moheli
 World War I Usages
 Registered French Community Rate
 Registered Overseas Rate

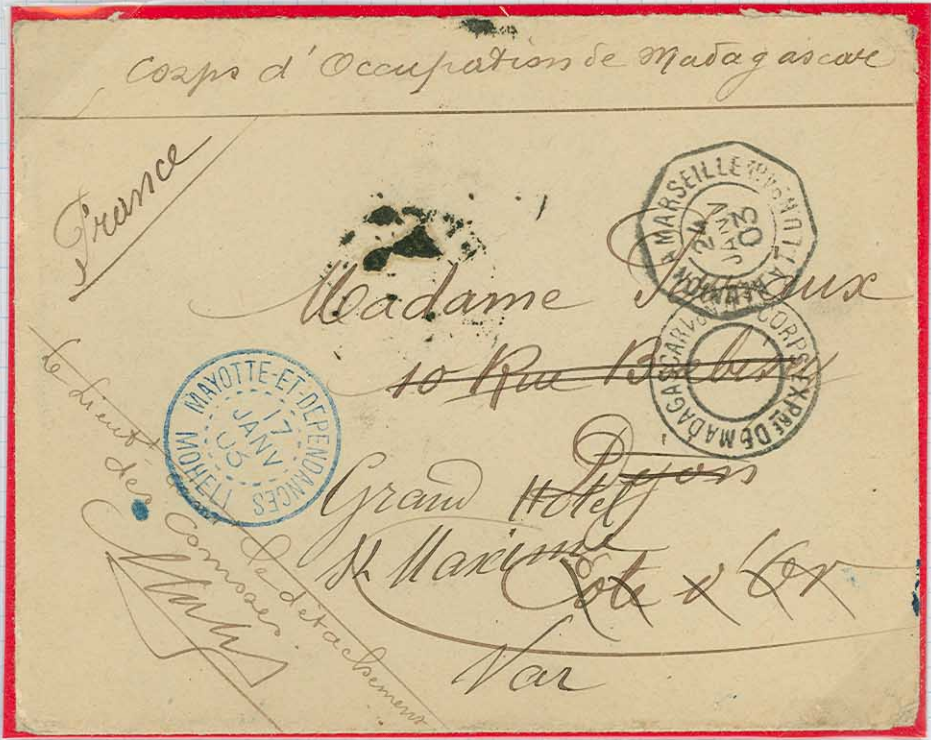


Use of the Group Type during World War I is unusual as most colonies were using pictorial issues. However, Moheli was still using Group Type remainders at this time as shown by the registered French Community rate letter (35c rate) to Captain Noël in December 1915 franked with Moheli, Grand Comoro and Madagascar stamps; and the registered censored letter from Moheli to Switzerland. Censored letters from the French Colonies during World War I are rare, especially when franked with Group Type stamps. This one is 5c under franked at 45c (the 5c additional on the Madagascar semi-postal was for charity), but such was not noted by the originating post office. The first letter shows that Captain Noël had come out of retirement for the war.

Moheli
Registered French Community Rate
French Community Rate



Letters posted to Captain Noël, a former colonial military officer who maintained a vigorous correspondence with the African and Indian Ocean colonies during the period of the Group Type's use. The first was posted in 1914 and franked with the Moheli 1912 Group Type overprints to prepay the 45c double French community registered rate; and the second franked at the 10c French Community rate with low value Group Types of Moheli. Mail to Captain Noël tends to be correctly, but colorfully, franked, suggesting that he had an interest in philately.



Military franchise letter posted from Moheli on January 17, 1903 with manuscript endorsement and signature relative to the detachment in the Comoro Islands. This letter traveled via French Packet Line U and bears the packet validation handstamp for the franchise rate enroute to France. Various French transits on the reverse. Franchise letters from the Comoro Islands are extremely rare.

MADAGASCAR & DEPENDENCIES

French expeditionary forces were active on the island of Madagascar in 1883 – 1885, and in 1894 – 1895 initiating a campaign at Majunga on the east coast aimed at the capital at Tananarive. The island was declared a French Colony in 1896. Group Type stamps with the **MADAGASCAR ET DEPENDANCES** legend arrived in 1896. During the French occupation that followed, extensive development of the island commenced. The number of post offices grew as the colony developed. The dependencies began a process of merging with Madagascar proper, a process that was completed in 1911. As this occurred Group Type stamps from the various entities were used interchangeably.



Provisional use of Mananjary telegraph office *Madagascar* script handstamp used to cancel a 15c Group Type stamp prepaying the 15c local rate used to Fianarantsoa. According to Varin (*Doc. Phil.* 2002) this was used from Sept. 1896 until May 1898 with few examples recorded. Also, exceptional use of the 5c Group Type stamp of Reunion on a civilian printed matter piece posted from a military post office at Majunga on November 23, 1895. The stamp is cancelled by the military datestamp: 2^{OR} ET 2^{ES} AUX ARMEES 2 MADAGASCAR. The envelope was backstamped at Bellac on December 25th confirming transit through the mails. The stamp was probably carried by the sender, and the military postmaster allowed its use, despite it being from another colony. **This is most probably the earliest recorded use of any Group Type stamp from Madagascar proper.** With the vastness and rapid development of this large colony, numerous oddities occurred as will be seen in the remainder of this exhibit.

This section of the exhibit highlights a study of the mail from the three principal cities of Madagascar: the capital and largest city of Tananarive, the major east coast port city of Tamatave, and the north west coast port of Majunga. Subsequent sections of the exhibit are introduced as encountered.

Tananarive
Registered Military Concession Rate
Military Concession Rate



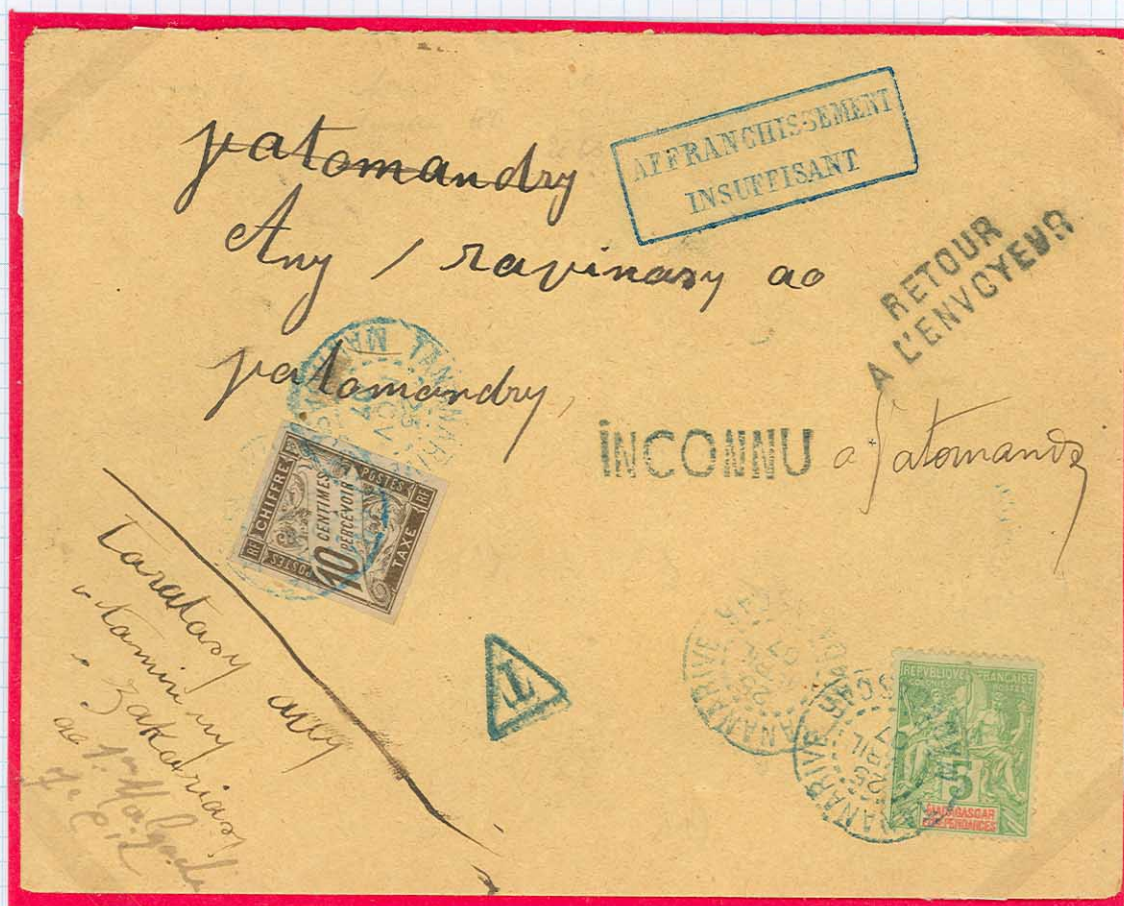
No military datestamps were created for Madagascar proper once the colony had been formed – indeed only Diego Suarez had such. This seems surprising given the extent of military activity throughout the colony, but most of the troops were given full franchise. Military concession rates, applicable to troops on station but not engaged in combat, are occasionally seen prior to their abandonment in January 1899. Shown is a registered military concession rate of 40c (15c reduced postage plus 25c registration) in 1897; and a simple concession rate from 1898. The latter bears a Reunion-Marseille packet datestamp of Line U and a military packet datestamp (CORPS EXP^{RE} MADAGASCAR LU N° 1) used in transit.

Tananarive
Registered Postcard Rate
Registered Overseas Rate



Registered postcard rate from 1902 (10c postage and 25c registration) prepaid by 5c and 30c Group Type stamps to France; and triple weight registered rate of 1F in 1898 to France franked with a single 1F stamp.

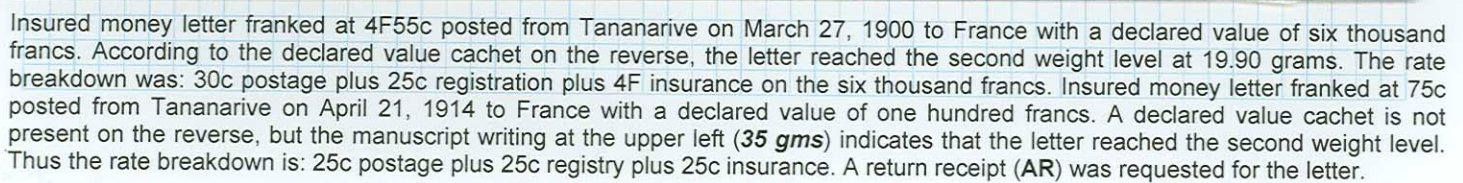
Tananarive
Returned Printed Matter
Registered Overseas Rate



Printed matter rate of 5c from Tananarive to Vatomandry. The addressee was unknown in Vatomandry, but printed matter was not eligible for free return. Four handstamps added to piece at Vatomandry, and returned to sender at 10c due, resulting in an exceptional printed matter item. Registered overseas rate to Uruguay, and unusual destination.



Registered French Community letters from/via Tananarive in 1913 and 1912 at the 35c rate employing stamps from the Dependencies, which is typical for these late dates. The lower letter was apparently placed in the railroad postal box at Taravohitra en route to Tananarive, which resulted in delay in its delivery. It was therefore struck with the very rare colonial boxed **TROUVÉ A LA BOITE** (Found in the Box) handstamp and processed in Tananarive to its destination at Paris.





ANCE GÉNÉRALE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
à MADAGASCAR



Monsieur le directeur
de l' "Américan export monitor"
Export printing et publishing co.,
193, west street,
Amérique New York

DIRECTION DES POSTES ET TÉLÉGRAPHES DE MADAGASCAR

No 1045 f.p.

20g



Monsieur Wilhelim Pott

49 Von Werthstr



Cologne

(Allemagne)

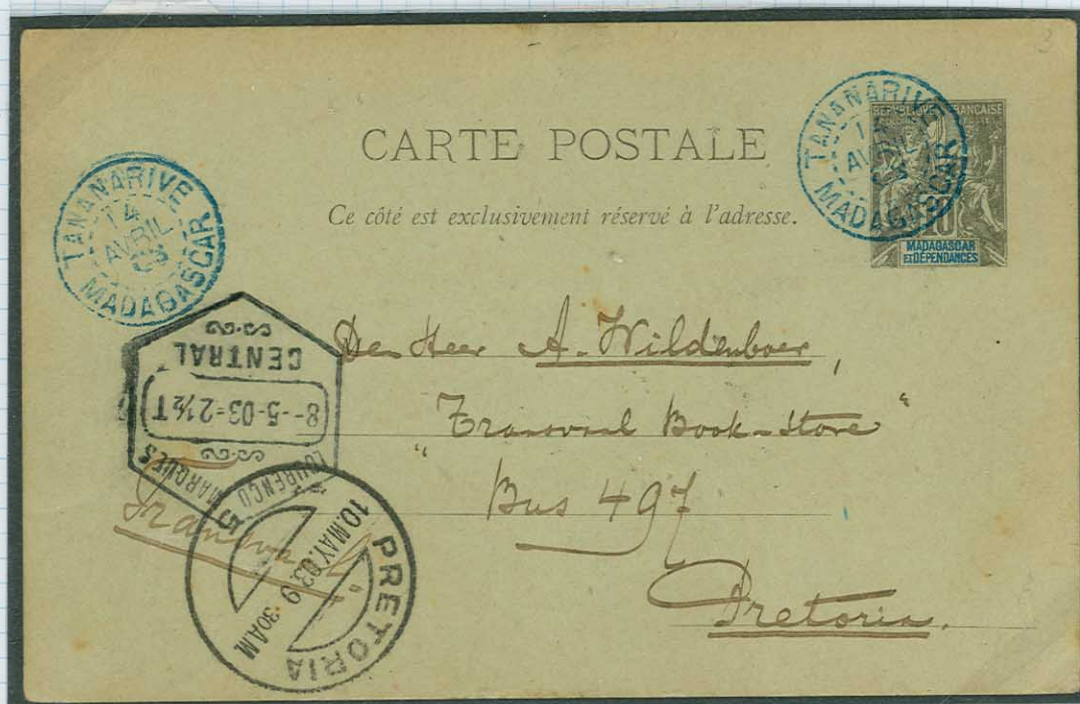
Apparent telegram from the office of the Governor of Madagascar with an unusual **POSTES ET TÉLÉGRAPHES MADAGASCAR 27 JUIN 98** datestamp to an addressee in the United States. The envelope bears an August 4th New York arrival. **This is the only recorded use of this cancellation on the Group Type issue.** The second letter also originated with the Telegraph Office at Tananarive as indicated by the special **POSTES ET TÉLÉGRAPHES MADAGASCAR DIRECTION 13 MAI 13** datestamp, apparently applied prior to passing the letter over to the post office. According to the manuscript endorsements at the upper left (No 1408 f.p./20g) the letter was registered (R omitted), and the f.p. (Franchise Postal – Free Frank) indicated that it was official business and traveled post free. The 25c stamp was used to prepay the registry fee which was not covered under the free frank.

Tananarive
Printed Matter Rate



Three examples of the 5c printed matter rate from Tananarive: the first from 1900 with full military validation (endorsement, signature and unit cachet) indicating origin at a military encampment; the second from 1913 to France and forwarded to Brazzaville, French Congo; and the third franked with one of the 1902 overprints created to fill a need for low value Group Type stamps.

Tananarive
Postal Stationery
French Community Rates
Postcard Rate



Late use of the Type Dubois 25c letter card raised to the Registered French Community rate with a 15c 1902 overprint to Lyon with a full message relating to postal matters. Also 1906 French Community rate letter card used to Versailles; and a 10c postcard sent in 1903 to Pretoria via Lourenço Marques.

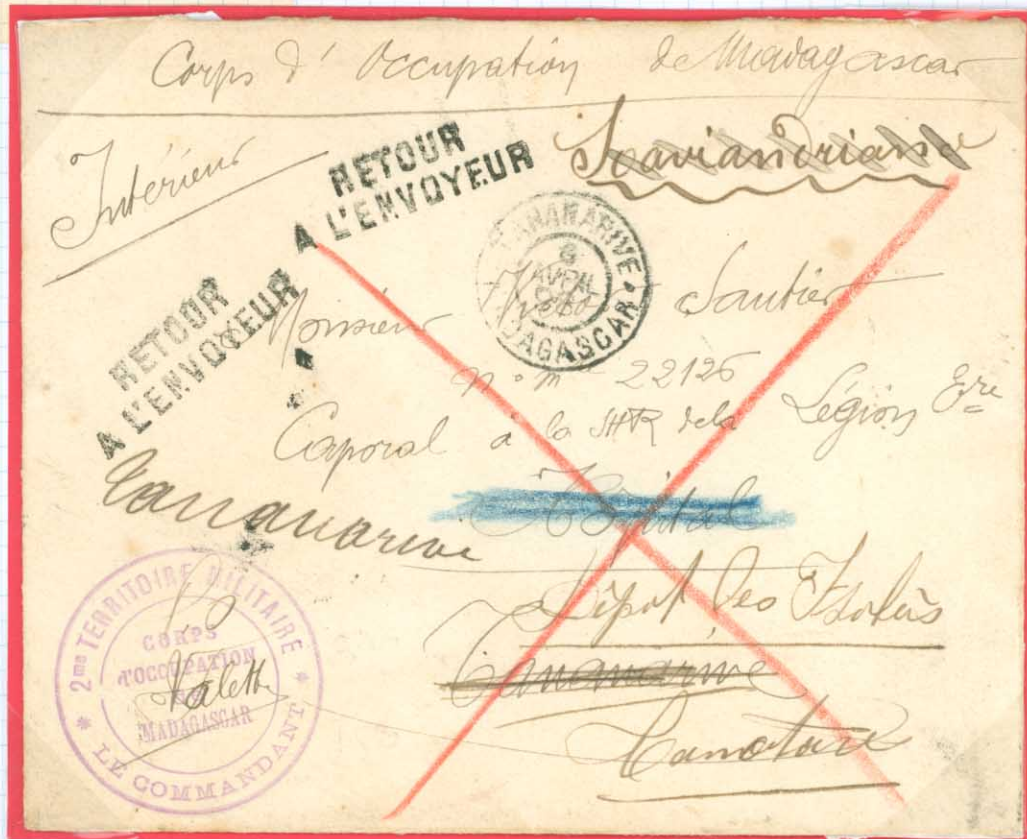
Tananarive
Railroad Service
Local and French Community Rates



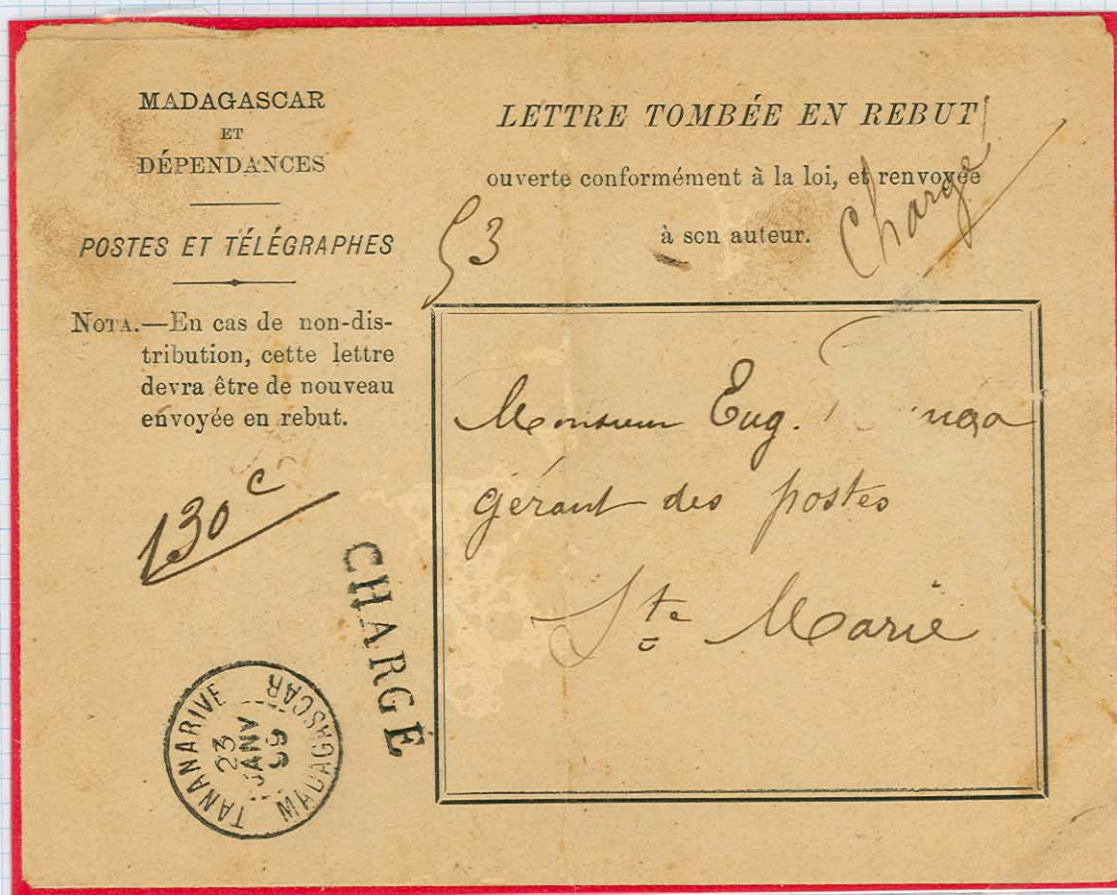
Mail could be posted in boxes at railroad stations or on the cars, and was inscribed **BM** (Boite Mobile – Moving Box) to note such. The letters were processed on arrival at Tananarive with the railroad datestamp: **TANANARIVE A LA COTE EST MADAGASCAR** and sent forward into the regular mails. Local and French Community rate letters are shown from 1914 and 1913 franked with Group Type 1912 overprints. The first letter shows a wide spacing variety of the overprint.



Enfant d'Occupation de Madagascar
 10c
 POSTE
 FRANCISE
 Madagascar
 25
 JUL
 97
 MADAGASCAR
 PROPRIETAIRES
 11
 TANANARIVE
 23
 JUL
 97
 MADAGASCAR
 Monsieur J. Lehardy
 Capitaine au 1^{er} de Ligne
 St Brieux
 (Inde Chine)



Triple weight (3 x 15c) registered military concession rate letter posted from Tananarive on July 23, 1897 employing an unusual combination of the territorial 50c provisional issue and the 20c Group Type issue to prepay the rate. Military franchise letter posted from Tananarive on April 8, 1898 with validating cachet and signature addressed to a member of the French Foreign Legion (*Légion Etr* [Etranger]). The reverse shows a most serious attempt to find the addressee in the Tamatave-Tananarive area, including the endorsement and signature of an officer of the Legion. The postal-military system was unable to locate him, and the letter was returned to the sender as confirmed by the endorsement of military postmaster on May 30th and the **RETOUR L'ENVOYEUR** handstamps.



Various categories of official mail did not require franking at the time of the Group Type's use. Shown is an official envelope used by the Madagascar post offices for the return of undeliverable mail to its sender. For security the such envelopes traveled with the registered mail. In this particular case, a letter was being returned to Sainte Marie.

TAMATAVE, MADAGASCAR

Tamatave was the principal port city on the eastern coast of Madagascar. It was the colony's principal commercial center, and the French Packets made regular stops there. Communication with the outside world was more facile than at the capital of Tananarive which was 200 km inland.

Registered Overseas Rates



Registered overseas rates from Tamatave at single, triple and single rates to Geneva in 1901, Saint Gall in 1898 and Crete in 1901 franked with valid Madagascar and Diego Suarez Group Type stamps. Crete is an exceptional destination.

ROMA
(ITALIA)

REGIO MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI



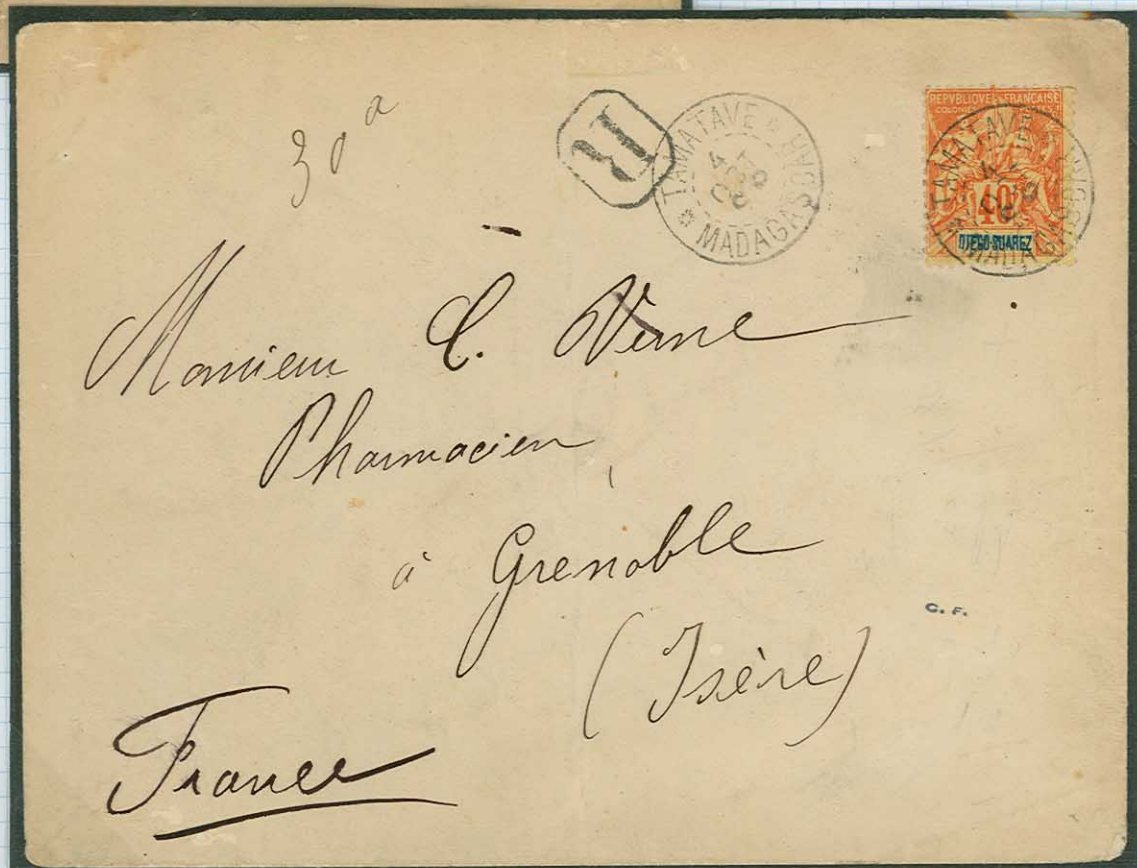
RECOMMANDE

Tamatave
Registered Overseas Rate



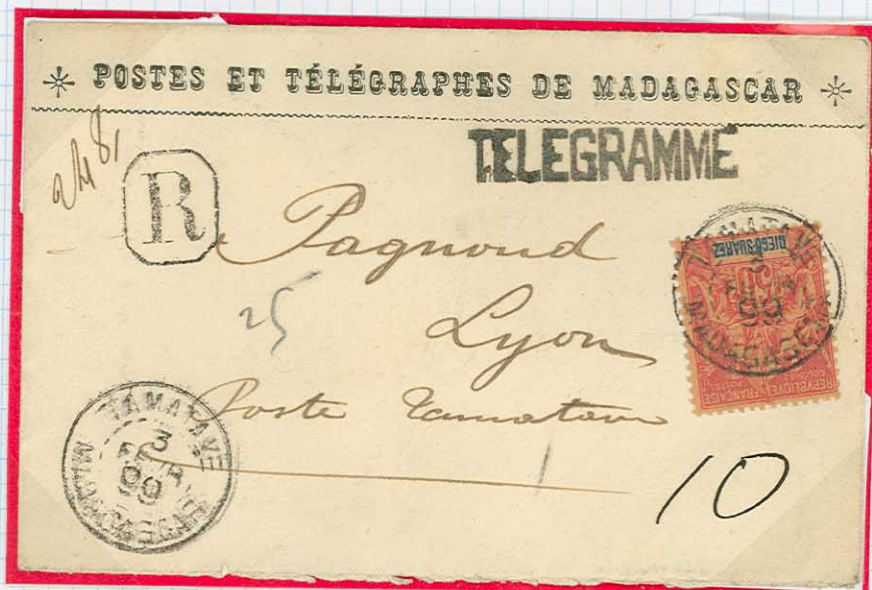
Registered overseas rate of 50c from Tamatave in 1912 to Prague franked with a variety of Group Type overprints and two Zébu issues to make the correct rate. Note the printing varieties on the 0,05 and 0,01 overprints showing both types of the overprint. Obviously a philatelic franking, but at the correct rate. Dr. Karl Rix was a noted Czech collector and founder of the Club of Collectors of Postal Stationery. The letter bears the seal of the German Consulate in Tamatave. The envelope is in the hand of Dr. Rix who apparently used his connections at the Consulate to prepare this envelope.

Tamatave
Registered French Community Rates



Registered French Community rates (40c) from Tamatave in 1904 and 1900 franked with a block of ten of the 4c stamp and a single 40c stamp illustrating different styles of the Tamatave datestamps.

Tamatave
Telegram Letters
Registered French Community Rates



Madagascar, Senegal and Indochina offered a special telegram-letter service for interior areas (and the capital at Tananarive in the case of Madagascar) to speed the delivery of important messages. Telegrams were sent to principal offices and then posted to destinations, primarily in France, employing regular postal rates. In the case of Madagascar, the telegrams went to the PTT in Tamatave and then onto the French Packets for delivery to France. Shown are two examples to the commercial firm of Pagnoud et Cie in Lyon. Both are at registered French community rates. The first from September 1897 was mailed at the proper 50c rate in an official French telegram envelope used throughout the French Community for this purpose. The second from February 1898 was sent in a locally printed envelope of the PTT that served a variety of PTT needs. The **TELEGRAMME** handstamp shows the intended use – the sending of a telegram letter to Lyon. These are the only two Madagascar telegram letters that the exhibitor has seen to date.

Tamatave
Insured Money Letter



Insured money letter from Tamatave posted May 7, 1905 to Saint Pierre, Reunion. Rate of 65c (15c postage; 25c registration and 25c insurance on a value of 150F) prepaid with combination of Madagascar and Diego Suarez stamps, the latter showing late use of the Dependencies legend. Transit via the port of Pointe des Galets on May 10th and arrival on the same day at Saint Pierre.

Exceptional declared value front franked at 10F85c from Tamatave to Manchester, England in 1908 prepaid with mostly Zébu issues and one Group Type issue. At the existing foreign rate schedule based on the weight of 620 grams noted in the declared value cachet on the front, this calculates out as: 4F75c postage; 25c registration and 5F85c insurance on a declared value of 2500 francs.



Tamatave
Letter Card Rates



Letter cards from Tamatave . The first posted during 1910 to Dar-el-Salaam via Zanzibar at the incorrect 10c in lieu of the 25c overseas rate. The shortage was not noted at Tamatave, so the letter traveled to its destination. The second uprated to the 25c rate to Germany in 1909. The third at a proper 15c French Community rate in 1900 to Majunga, and the fourth at a proper 25c overseas rate in 1898 to Triest and forwarded to Abazia, Austria. All are properly postally used with full messages present on the insides.

Tamatave
Registered Parcel Tag



As noted in the Diego Suarez section, parcel tags franked with Group Type stamps are very infrequently seen since the French area post offices kept the tags when the parcels were delivered. Shown is a registered parcel tag posted in Tamatave on February 3, 1915 at a 1F35c rate. Registration was 25c leaving 1F10c for postage on the parcel. The franking was achieved by multiples of the 05/15 1912 overprint of Anjouan and a 20c Madagascar Zébu stamp. During the printing of the Group Type overprint, the frame holding the overprint clichés broke creating eight overprint varieties, including two in which the 05 has clearly separated. Why this faulty sheet was not removed from the shipment in Paris or at the sales window in Tamatave is unknown.

Tamatave
Postage Due Letters



Letter from Tamatave in 1901 to Egypt incorrectly franked at the 15c French community rate in lieu of the 25c overseas rate. It was charged 8 millemes due in Cairo, double the 10c deficiency. The second letter was posted locally in Tamatave at the 5c printed matter rate, and was forwarded to the addressee in Mananjary. Forwarding of printed matter was not covered under Colonial postal regulations, so the letter was treated as an underfranked local letter with a 15c rate. It was credited for the 5c postage and charged 20c due double the 10c underpayment. The 20c Madagascar local postage due issue was applied, and cancelled by the rare heavy-ringed provisional datestamp of Mananjary (see Mananjary section in the Small Office usage). **Proper use of the Madagascar postage dues of 1896-1897 with the provisional Mananjary cancel is possibly a unique combination.**

MAJUNGA, MADAGASCAR

Majunga was the principal commercial center and port city of the upper west coast of Madagascar. Its post office was opened in the 1880's. Initially the French Colonies Dubois issues and the Type Sage issues of France and were used, followed by use of various provisional overprints on the French Type Sage issues. In the late 1890's to early 1900's Group Type stamps saw their first use. The second French military campaign to capture Madagascar began at Majunga in 1895, and the military maintained a strong presence in the area through the 1890's.

Use of Nossi-Bé Stamps

Printed Matter

Registered French Community Rate



Early Group Type letters from Majunga in 1899 showing use of stamps of Nossi-Bé. Undoubtedly, these were available and supplied for use from this entity. Shown are a 5c printed matter rate posted December 18, 1899, and a 40c registered French Community rate posted on May 29, 1899. Although no special rate was applicable, this letter shows an origin and endorsement from a local military unit stationed at Majunga.



Group Type 10c postal cards from Majunga in 1901. The first shows use of the rare large format **MAJUNGA** Telegraph Office datestamp without indication of the colony of Madagascar. **This datestamp is not recorded in Langlois et Bourselet, and is possibly the only recorded use of it on the Group Type issue.** The second card is to Natal via Zanzibar and Lourenço Marques, also in 1901, and shows rare use of the **APRÈS DÉPART** (Too Late) handstamp of this office indicating that the card missed the connection to Zanzibar.

Guy

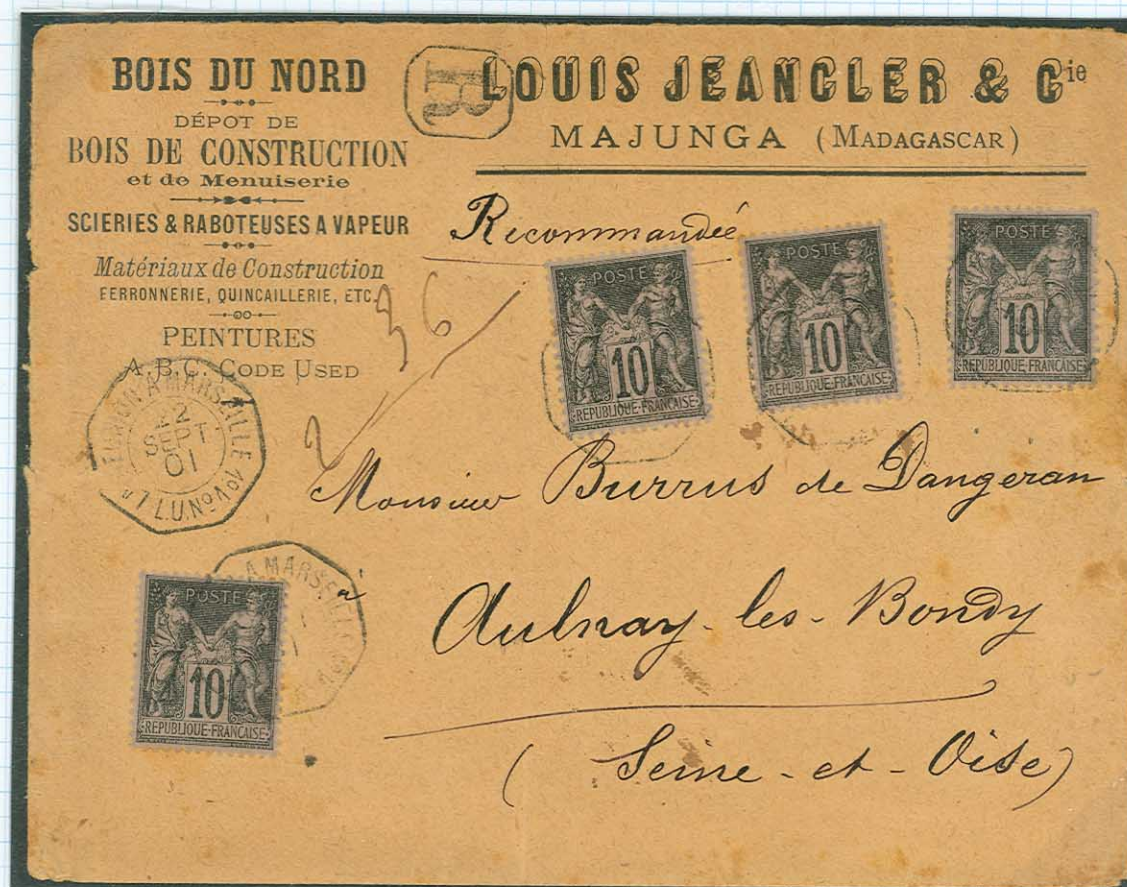
Le Capitaine et Madame Mercier
ont le plaisir de vous apprendre la naissance de
leur fils.

MAJUNGA, 20 MAI 1907.
Madagascar



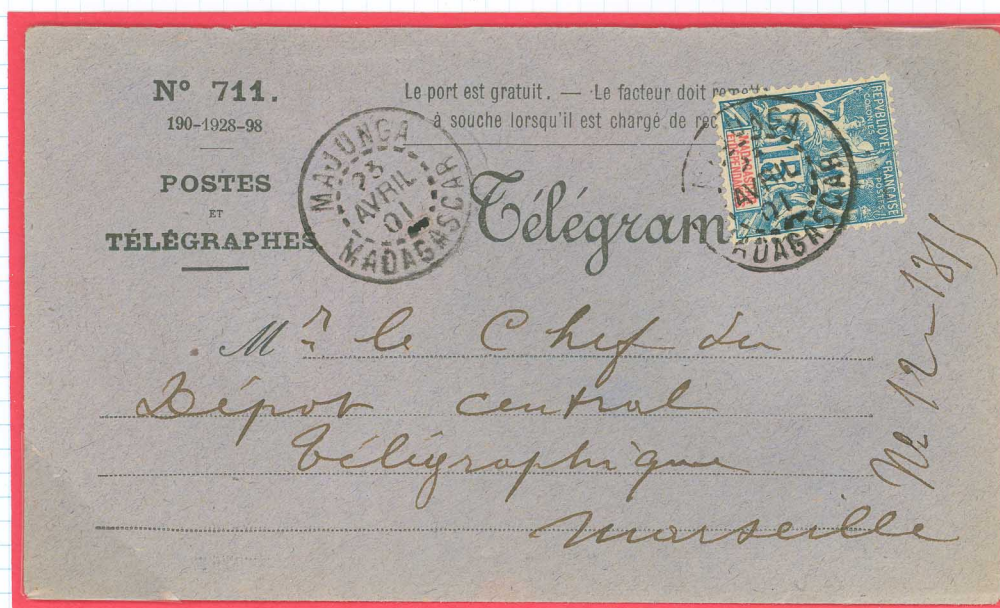
Printed matter rate of 5c from Majunga in 1907 with birth announcement enclosure. To provide extra certainty of proper delivery, postcards could be registered for the standard 25c registration fee. An example from Majunga to Sweden, an unusual destination, is shown.

Majunga
Absence of the Group Type



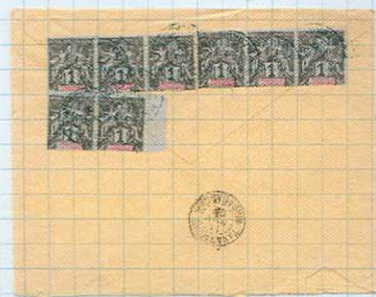
As already noted in the Diego Suarez section, letters could be posted onboard the French Packets or at the docks and franked with stamps of France. Shown is a cover from a Majunga merchant franked with four 10c French Type Sage stamps prepaying the 40c Registered French Community rate to France. The stamps are tied by the octagonal datestamp of the Reunion-Marseille's Line U in 1901.





Rare Telegram Letter received at the Majunga telegraph office on April 23, 1901, and sent through the regular mails to its destination in France. Insured money letter posted from Majunga on March 8, 1902 at a 3F95c rate to Marseille with a declared value of 5,000F. The cachet on the reverse noted that the letter reached the second weight level at 29.10 grams, so the postage breakdown is as follows: 30c postage; 25c registration and 3F40c insurance for the 5000 francs.

Majunga
Local Rates
Registered French Community Rate



Local rates of 15c prepaid with an inverted overprint from the 1902 issue, and fifteen 1c stamps on the front and back of a 1901 cover. Also, very late 1917 use of the 40c Group Type stamp prepaying the 40c registered French Community rate which had just been raised from 35c to 40. The AR handstamp requested a return receipt.

[illegible]

N° 1302

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

D'UN OBJET

CHARGÉ ou RECOMMANDÉ

Pour le bureau de

Mayunga

Departement

REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
POSTES
5
MAYOTTE

REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
POSTES
5
MAYOTTE

An *Avis de Réception* form originating from Majunga with a registered letter posted on July 4, 1914 to the small village of Mandritsara where it was received on July 27th. The form was received back at Majunga on August 13th. Mayotte stamps were used to prepay the 10c rate. At this point, all of the stamps from Madagascar & Dependencies were used interchangeably throughout the colony. As noted in the Sainte Marie de Madagascar section, the form used for this service was designed specifically for Madagascar. This is an exceptionally rare usage; quite possibly unique.



Military franchise letters from Majunga in 1900 and 1899, the former from the occupation forces and the latter from a naval group stationed in the area. Use of the 5 T^{OR} ET P^{ES} AUS ARMEES 5 MADAGASCAR undated datestamp on both letters as a validation cachet for the franchise rate serves to associate the number 5 datestamp with Majunga.

MADAGASCAR: SMALL VILLAGE USE OF THE GROUP TYPE

Of all of the French Colonies, the issues relating to the small village post offices are the most complex and interesting with regard to the postal history of Madagascar. When the Group Type arrived in the early 1890's, a number of small village offices already existed. Given the size of the colony and the rapid growth of French military and economic influence during the period of the Group Type's use, a very large number of new small village offices was created to rapidly provide mail service to the general writing population. This is explored in this section, and undoubtedly represents the largest and most comprehensive collection of Group Type material from the Madagascar small villages ever assembled. Growth was so rapid that it was often not possible to provide regular datestamps and other post office paraphernalia as the offices initially opened. A group of provisional numeral datestamps was created for temporary use until the regular datestamps arrived. These are examined in detail after the section on small village use of the Group Type. Even this provisional system of supporting the newly opened offices occasionally did not suffice, and local postmasters had to resort to on-the-spot solutions to their immediate needs.

Given the complexity of presenting the small villages in a logical context, they are simply presented in approximate alphabetical order with minimal commentary.

Ampanihy

Unrecorded Manuscript Datestamp



Possibly the most remarkable small village cancellation in this section is that from Ampanihy. Although the literature shows the existence of this office, nothing is recorded about its style of datestamp and when the office opened. The letter above is undoubtedly the first recorded franked letter from this office and was posted on January 17, 1901 at the Registered French Community Rate. Neither a provisional numeral datestamp or regular datestamp were apparently available, and the letter was processed with manuscript cancels and a manuscript datestamp. Transit to Bordeaux was via the Reunion-Marseille packet. Ex Dubus

Small Village Use
Ambatolampy



Exceptional insured money letter from the small village of Ambatolampy on December 26, 1902 to Stuttgart, Germany. The insured value is for 200 francs and the letter is franked at 85c with 25c for postage on a 10 gram weight; 25c for registration and 35c insurance on the declared value. Apparently the office at Ambatolampy did not have access to its normal insured letter cachet. The local postmaster created a manuscript version of the cachet, conforming to the established French design, and certified his effort with his signature. After transit via Tananarive, the letter was posted on the Reunion-Marseille Packet line, where the postal clerk on board verified the creation of this cachet and the validity of the insured letter. This was documented on the letter, and the handstamp: **CONTROLEUR DES SERVICE MARITIMES POSTEAUX** added. This is the only example of this handstamp that has been recorded to date. The letter was received at Stuttgart on January 25, 1903,

Small Village Use
Ambatolampy
(Railroad Posting)
Ambakirano



Local rate letter posted on the railroad line running between Antsirabe and Tananarive receiving the boxed **BM** boxed handstamp (Boite Mobile), and processed at the village of Ambatolampy on May 11, 1913. The addressee apparently resided in a nearby village not having a post office. Also, Registered Local Rate of 35c (10c postage + 25c registration) from the small village of Ambakirano on March 5, 1915 transiting via the small village of Betsiaka on March 8th.



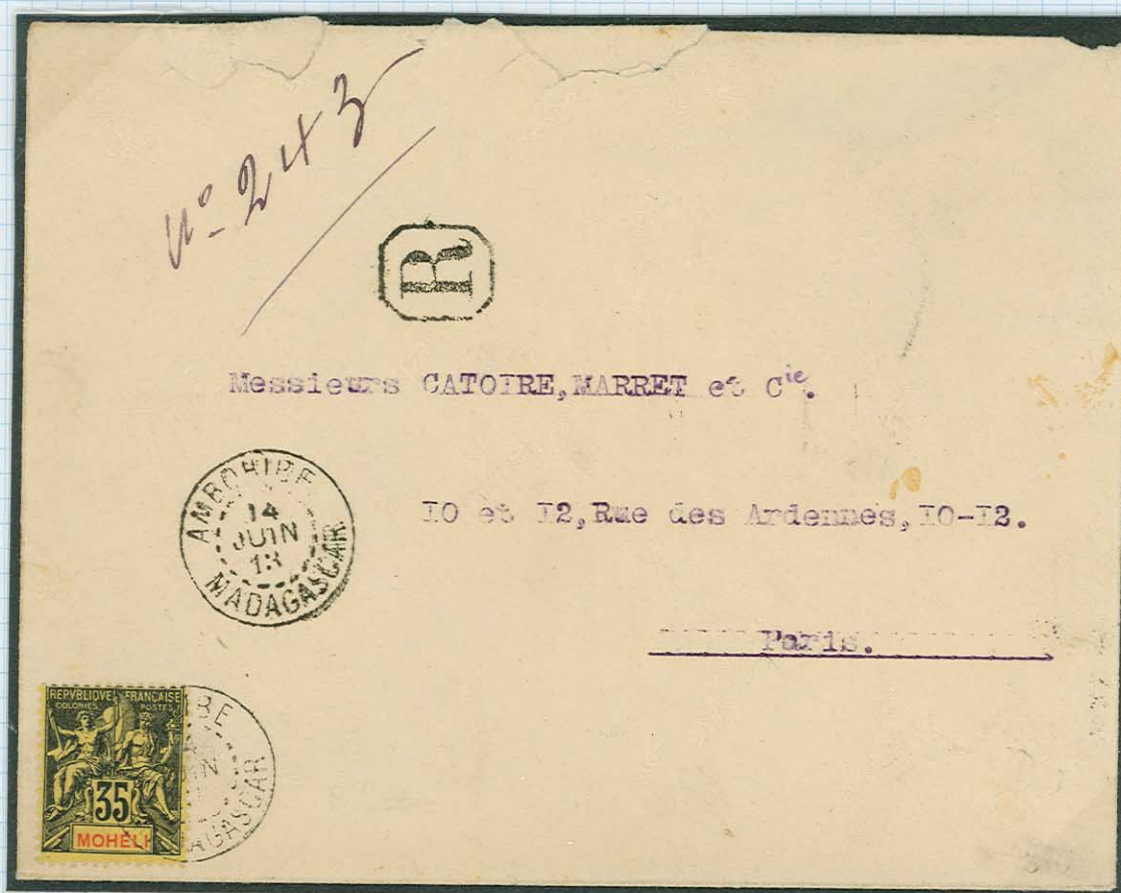
Group Type letter card uprated to the 35c Registered Local Rate posted from Ambatondrazaka on May 2, 1910 to Tamatave, plus an **exceptional printed matter wrapper posted at a registered 20c rate** to France from the same office on April 23, 1914. This prepaid the postage of 10c for the second weight level plus a special 10c registration fee for printed matter in a wrapper band in lieu of the regular 25c fee for registration. This rate is rarely seen on Colonial mail. Ex Stone

Small Village Use
Ambavahibe
Ambilobe



French Community Rate of 10c from the small village of Ambavahibe to Diego Suarez and to France, both during 1914.

Small Village Use
Ambohimahosoa
Ambohibe

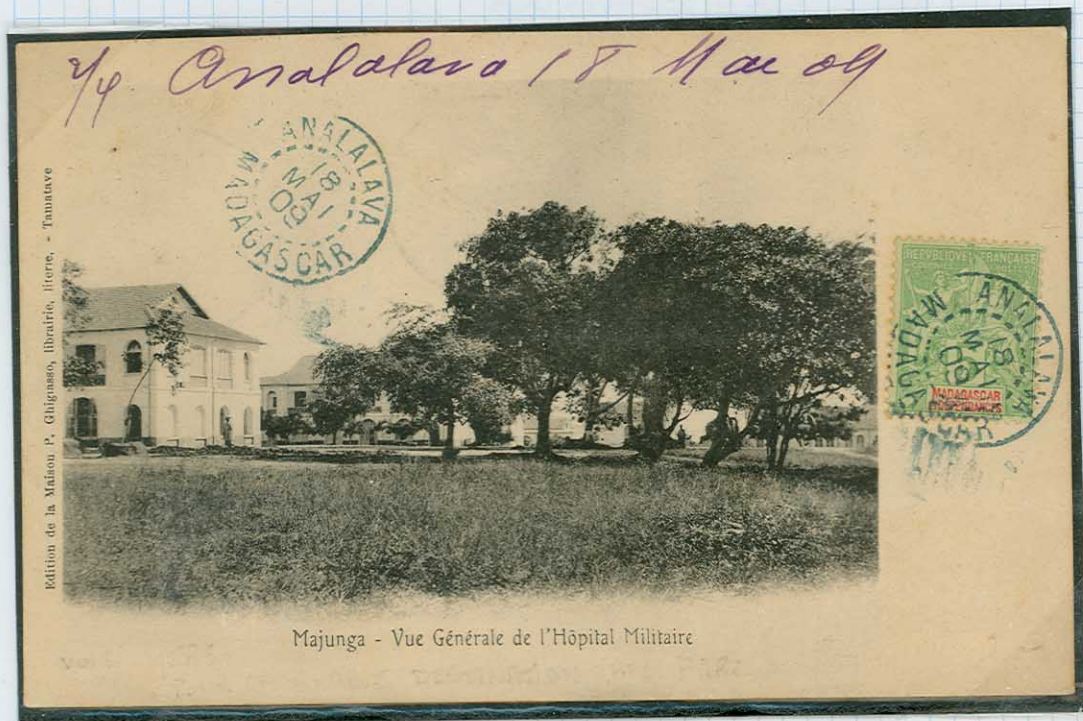


French community rate of 10c from Ambohimahosoa in 1914 franked with the 1912 overprints of Anjouan with that on the right showing the wide spacing variety for the 05 overprint. The second letter is from Ambohibe at the registered French community rate illustrating use of the single 35c stamp.



Local and French Community Rates of 10c from Ambositra in 1914 and 1908. The Vernier family had worked to set up the missions in French Oceania, and they retired to Madagascar.

Small Village Use
Analalava

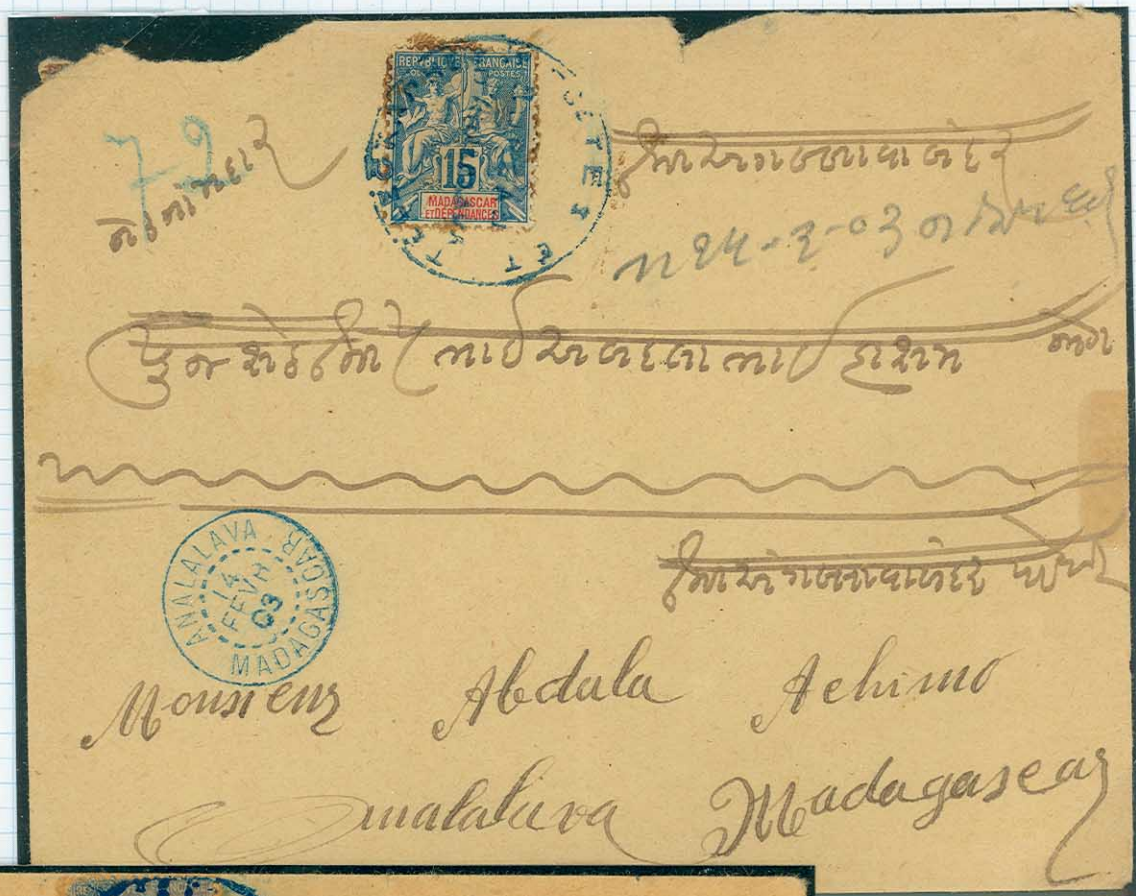


Postcards at the 5c short message rate and the regular 10c rate from Analalava to Serbia (via Suez and Alexandria) and Greece, two very unusual destinations for this small village.



Registered French Community Rate of 35c employing two pictorial issues from Analalava in 1908 to Paris. The latter transited via Nossi-Bé to catch the French Packet. Also, Overseas Rate to the Alsace in 1903. The Alsace required the 25c overseas rate because it was part of Germany at this time.

Small Village Use
Analalava
Telegraph Office Cancels



Telegraph office cancels from the small village office at Analalava in 1903 at the 15c French Community Rate. Although unusual, four or five copies of this usage are known from this office.

Succursale de la Société Anonyme Pharmaceutique de Tamatave
G. LE GOUR. pharmacien (Andévorante)



M^{rs} J. J. J. Valette
Professeur au J. W. III
Batavia
Java

80



M^{onsieur} J. Gardy
23 Boulevard Beaumarchais
Paris



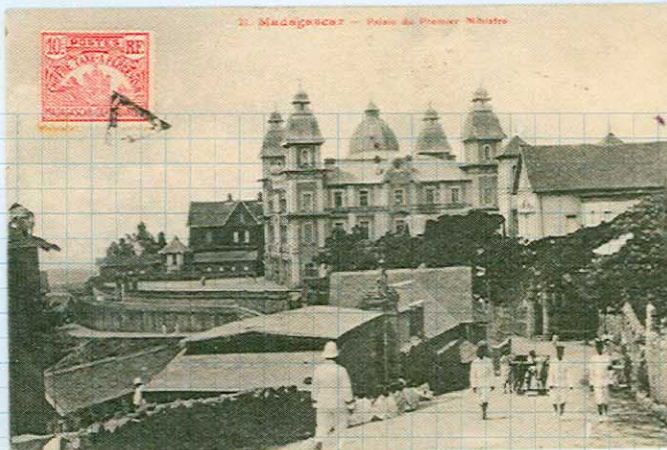
Exceptional 5c printed matter envelope posted from the small village of Andevorante on November 27, 1903 to Batavia, Java. The letter transited via Tamatave on November 29th, the Reunion-Marseille French Packet Line (December 3rd), Aden (December 13th switching to a British ship) and Singapore (December 26th) finally reaching Batavia on December 29th. Thus, this piece of 'junk mail' is handled by three European colonial administrations and two European packet services over a period of one month and safely reached its destination. Ex Stone. Also, a registered French community rate letter from the same post office in 1905.

Small Village Use
Ankazobe
Anjiro
Anivorano



Letters posted from the small villages of Ankazobe (1904, Registered French Community); Anjiro (1909, Local) and Anivorano (triple weight Registered French Community).

Small Village Use
Antsirabe



Postcard sent at the 5c short message rate (twelve words or less), but of more than twelve words, so charged 10c due at Tananarive relative to the 10c postcard rate employing a 1908 due stamp. Also, Registered French Community Rate from the same village in 1913 employing a single 35c stamp.



N^o 466

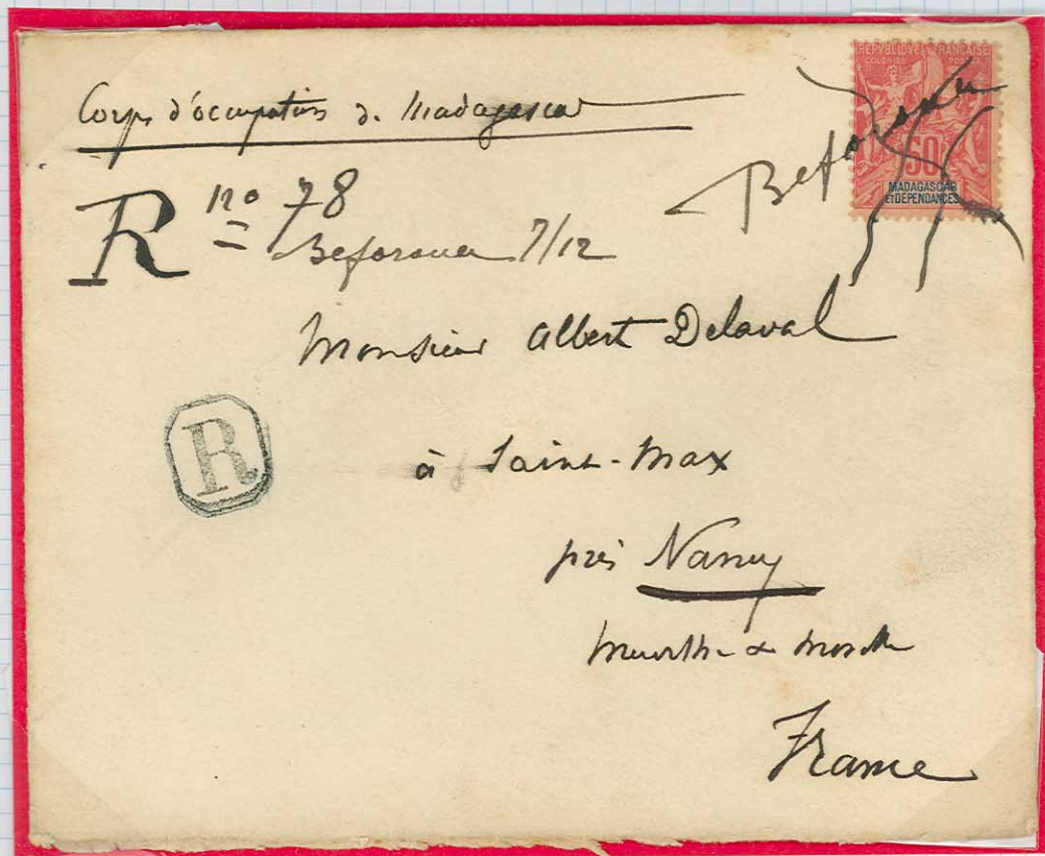


Recommandé

Compagnie Lyonnaise de Madagascar
10 Rue de la Fontaine



Lyon



Unusual letter posted at the 50c Overseas Registered Rate from the village of Beforona, which is located about 150 km west of Tananarive. Apparently the post office equipment had not arrived at this newly forming office when this letter was posted on December 12, 1898. The letter bears a military manuscript endorsement: **Corps d'occupation d Madagascar** indicating origin in a military area near Beforona. The letter also bears manuscript indicia: **R n°78 Beforona 7/12** and an unusual **Beforona** cancellation of the stamp. Neither the military concession rate or military franchise applied, suggesting the sender was an officer. Probably the registry **R** was applied enroute to confirm registration of the letter. The letter bears a Nancy arrival from January 15, 1898.

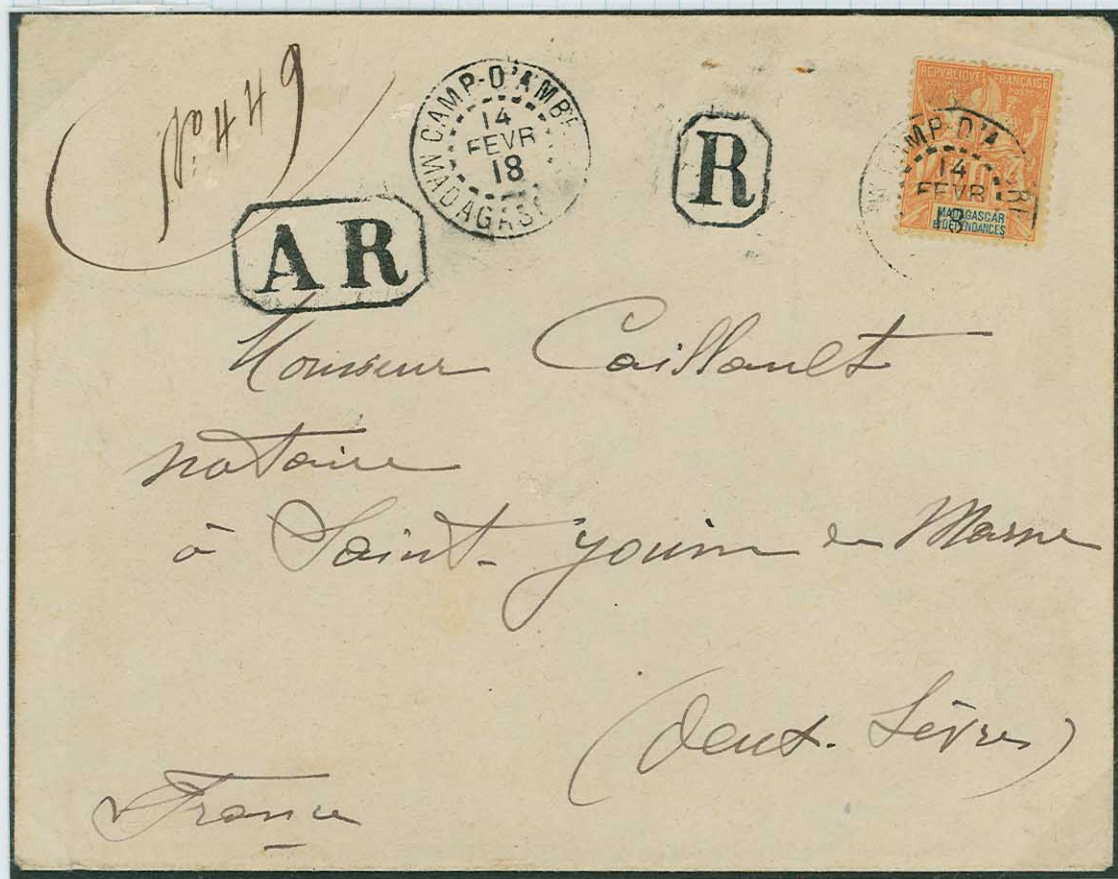


Small Village Use
Behara
Betafo

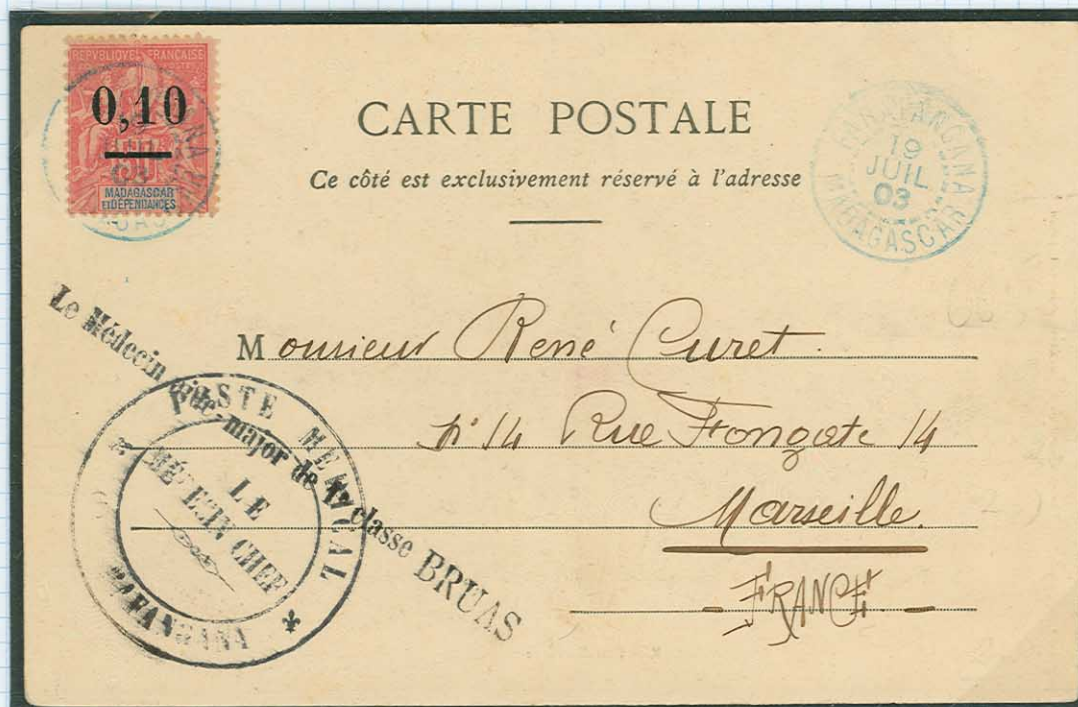


French community and registered French community rates from the small villages of Behara and Betafo in 1902 and 1903, respectively.

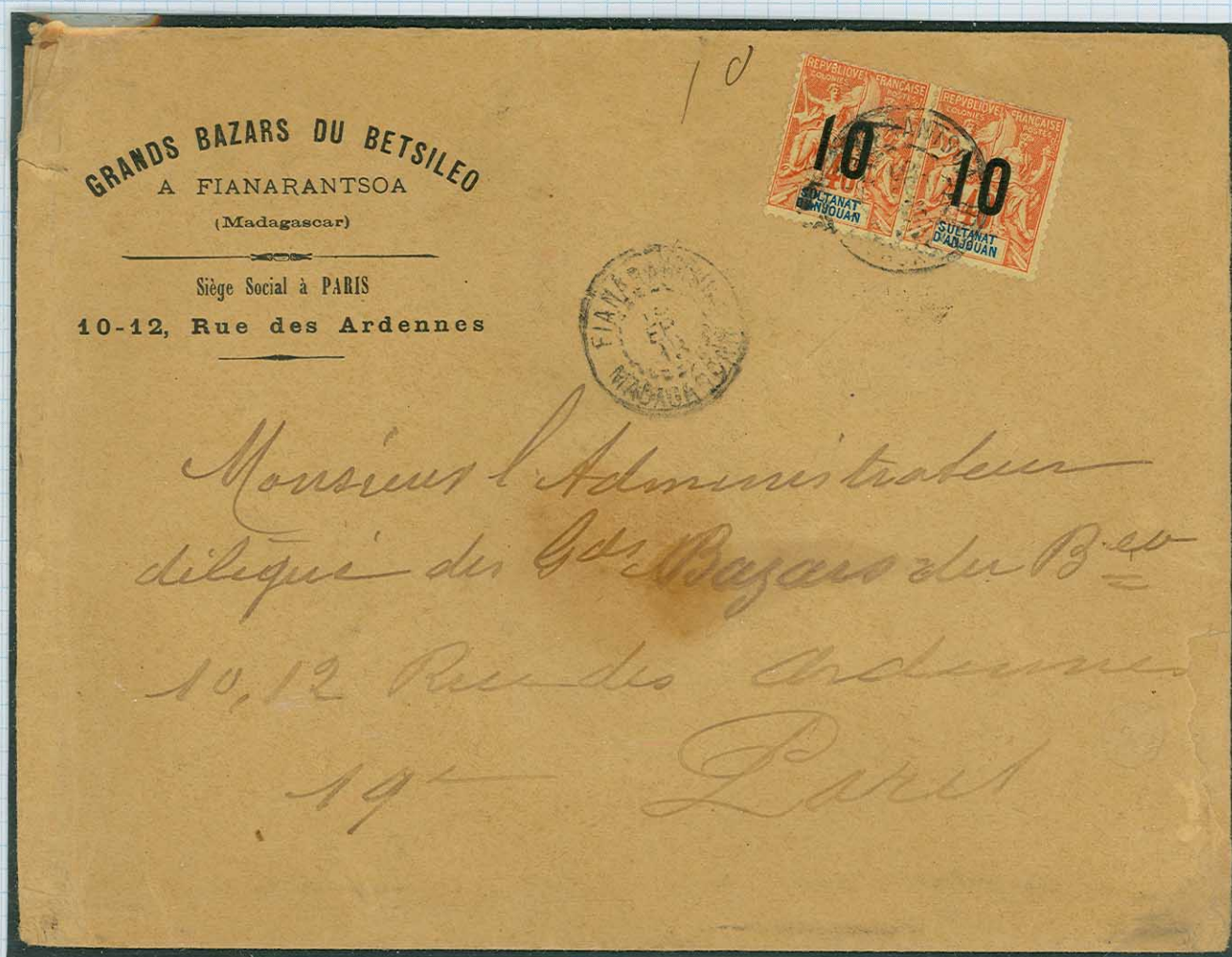
Small Village Use
Brickaville
Camp d'Ambre



Registered French community rates of 35c from Brickaville in 1909 and 40c from Camp d'Ambre in 1918, the latter with a boxed **AR** indicating a request for a return receipt. The basic French Community Rate was raised from 10c to 15c in 1917.



Registered French Community Rate of 35c and long message Postcard Rate from Farafangana in 1914 and 1903 respectively. The former shows the wide spacing variety of the 1912 overprint. The latter is franked with the 1902 overprint, and the message on the reverse is noting the availability of these stamps for collectors.



Postcard from Fianarantsoa in 1904 to Kristiania, Sweden, and double French community rate from 1913 to Paris franked with a pair of the 1912 overprints.



Remarkable 16th weight Registered French Community Rate letter (2F40c postage plus 25c registration) from Fianarantsoa in 1901 to France originating at a military post office – hence the endorsement and cachet. Based on the addressee, the envelope undoubtedly contained stamps in large multiples.

Postcard from Fihaonana in 1902 and overseas letter from Fenerive in 1914, the latter addressed to the Chirological College of California, a creation of the infamous mentalist Professor A. Victor Segno.

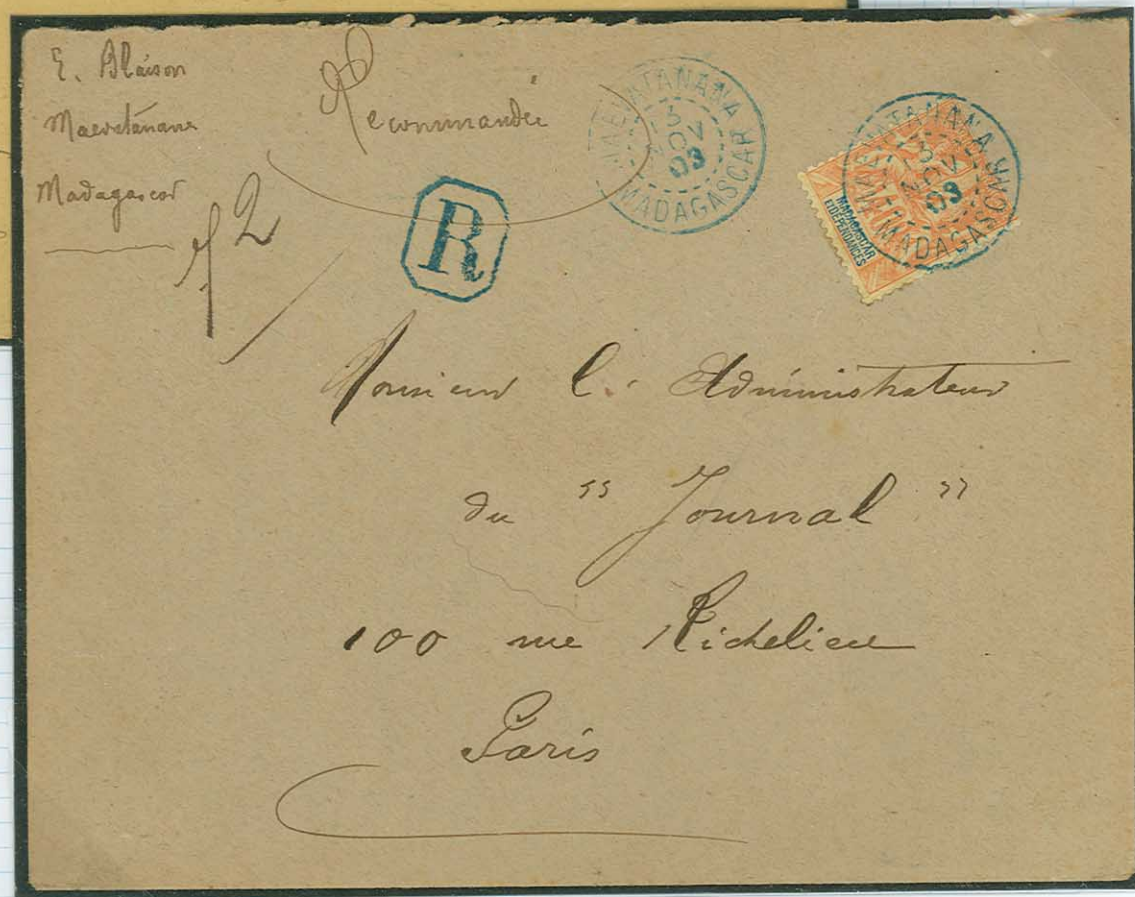


Registered printed matter rate from 1900 of 30c employing the 5c Type Sage overprinted stationery overprinted for use in Madagascar. Registered French community rate letter franked at 75c with 1900 new Group Type color issues. Addressed to the Champion firm in Paris, this is undoubtedly a philatelic cover, however the use of the 25c and 50s stamps of the 1900 printing together is unusual.

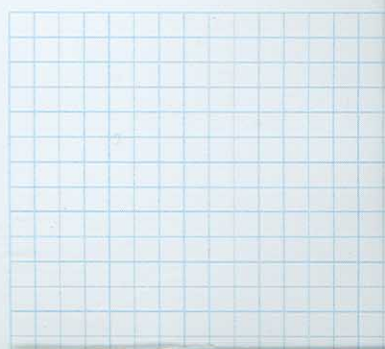
Small Village Use
Ihosi
Imerimandroso



Local use of the 5c 1900 printed matter envelope from Ihosi, undoubtedly for a New Year's greeting, and use of a 25c letter card from Imerimandroso to Germany in 1904. Both are among the more difficult villages from which to find material.



Small Village Use
Mahanoro



Small Village Use
Mahitsy
Mahela



Postcard rate from the small village of Mahitsy to France in 1902, plus French Community rate and postcard rate from the small village of Mahela in 1904 and 1899, the latter to the unusual destination of Trieste with the postmark in violet.

Small Village Use
Maintirano
Mananara



Postings from the small villages of Maintirano and Mananara. The former from 1913 is at the registered French community rate franked with a single stamp, and the latter from 1912 is at the 10c French community rate. It traveled via Sainte Marie de Madagascar enroute to the French Packet connection.

Small Village Use
Mananjary

J. Langlois
28 Sept 1907

Recu 28. Oct 1907



Monsieur C. Piaton Laubonne

Talence - Bordeaux

Guionde 1

313



Monsieur E. Dolis fils

62, rue Henri Litolff

a Colombes (Seine)

Small Village Use
Mananjary



Postings from the small village of Mananjary in 1908 and 1903; the former at the postcard rate with a rare **APRÈS LE DÉPART** (Too Late) handstamp of that village, and the latter franked at a 75c insured money letter rate for 25c postage, 25c registration and 25c insurance on a declared value of 150F on a letter to Germany. The reverse shows an unusual declared value cachet which was apparently fabricated locally.



Printed matter rate in 1902 from the small village of Manjakandriana franked with a 1902 overprint to Tananarive, and postcard originating on the rail line operating to Manjakandriana enroute to Tamatave and Paris in 1907. The blue B.M (Boite Mobile) indicates origin on the railroad. The handstamp was fabricated locally and is rare used on any mail.



Small Village Use
Maroantsetra



French community rate letters from the small village of Maroantsetra in 1902 (15c rate) and 1912 (10c rate) franked with a 1902 Madagascar overprint and a 1912 revaluation on an Anjouan stamp.

Small Village Use
Marolambo
Maromandia



Postings from the small villages of Marolambo (10c French Community rate) and Maromandia (55c triple weight registered local rate). The former is to a soldier serving in WWI in France; the latter to a colonial administrator.

Small Village Use
Miarinarivo



Postings from the small village of Miarinarivo – the first from 1913 at the 35c registered French community rate prepaid with Group Type 1912 overprints, a zébu issue and a pictorial issue. It is addressed to Philippeville, Algeria and a return receipt had been requested. The second is at the 10c postcard rate to the USA.

Small Village Use
Moramanga
Morondava
Marovay



Local use of the 10c letter card from Moramanga – part of the Vernier family correspondence in 1908; the 10c local rate from Morondava in 1903; and a 25c overseas rate to India from Marovay in 1900.



Local letter from Sambava in 1902 at the 15c rate, plus postcard from Tsivory in 1908.



Postings from the small village of Tuléar all in 1904: local letter card to Nossi-Bé; postcard to Breslau; and overseas letter at the 25c rate to Stuttgart – all of the items suggesting a strong German presence in the Tuléar area.

Small Village Use
Vangaindrano
Vatomandry
Damaged Letter



Postcard from the small village of Vangaindrano in 1919 to Switzerland, and overseas rate letter from Vatomandry to Switzerland where forwarded. Thereafter, a triple weight French community rate letter (3 x 15c) from the Vatomandry in 1901 to Paris which was severely damaged enroute. A special sealing tape was applied in Paris, and a manuscript endorsement **arrive deché à P 60** (arrived damaged at Paris 60 [Central Office]) and signature were added.



Letters from the 1902 – 1903 period from the small village of Vohemar to a government official in Tananarive. These letters traveled by local sailing ship to Diego Suarez where they joined the regular French Packet to Tamatave and then to Tananarive via land. Note the various frankings to prepay the 15c rate.

MADAGASCAR NUMERAL AND OTHER PROVISIONAL POSTMARKS

With French influence expanding rapidly in Madagascar in the late 1890's, it was not possible to supply all of the newly opening post offices with appropriate datestamps in a timely manner. Therefore, a group of numeral postmarks was developed, and these were used on a provisional basis over a period of more than thirty years as the colony grew. Two types of double ring numeral postmarks were created: those with **MADAGASCAR** at the top and a number below (Type I), and the reverse with the number at the top and **MADAGASCAR** below (Type II). Numbers between 1 – 99 were used in both types, and as post offices received their regular datestamps, the numeral datestamps were withdrawn. They were subsequently assigned to other developing post offices. The association of given numeral datestamps with specific post offices employing them has become an area of intense study by Madagascar postal historians. Often the association between numeral cancel and the office employing it can be made from information contained on the cover on which it was used. Stone collated existing information in 1980 (France & Colonies Philatelist), and more recently, Desnos in 1996 (Bulletin de la COLFRA) has done a more definitive study which he continues to update. Material from this collection was used to support his studies. The use of these provisional postmarks is almost always from smaller, newly created offices, which did not process large quantities of mail. Thus, they are a natural extension of the previous small village study in this exhibit. **This grouping represents the largest collection of numeral cancels on the Group Type assembled to date.** As noted by Stone, use of the numeral cancels on cover is generally rare.



Ideal example of the use of a numeral cancel (**MADAGASCAR 1**) of Type I posted on January 13, 1901 (based on transits on the reverse) to France where forwarded. The **Corps d'occupation de Madagascar** endorsement, cachet and signature indicates this as originating at a military post office in a newly occupied area. There was no concession rate in 1901, so the 15c is a standard French community rate. The manuscript highlighting of the poorly struck cachet identifies the originating village as Manjakandriana, thus associating numeral cancel 1 (Type I) with this village in 1901. Subsequent cancels are presented in approximate numerical order, noting the village and year and month of use when possible.

Numeral Datestamps

2 – Tananarive 2, August 1906

6 – Unknown, August 1899



The 2 numeral cancel was used from the newly formed suboffice at Tananarive during the early part of the 20th century. Of all of the numeral cancels, this is the only one that can be readily found because of the volume of mail processed at this office. The 6 numeral cancel is shown used on a very philatelic envelope, franked at 2F with Group Type stamps of Diego Suarez and Nossi-Bé plus a 75c provisional issue. The office of use is unknown at this time.

Numeral Datestamps

9 – Ambalavao, July 1903

9 – Ambalavao, January 1904

10 – Fanasana, June 1903

CARTE POSTALE

Ce côté est exclusivement réservé à l'adresse.



M. l'her

Monsieur Edouard Bismarck

29
ordance



Monsieur O. Lissot,
Imprimeur
1. Rue Basse,
à Mende



(Lozère)

France



Monsieur l'Administrateur,
du "Journal"
100 Rue de Richelieu
Paris

Use of the 9 numeral datestamp on items from July 1903 and January 1904, most probably from the same office, giving some sense of the long organizational times involved in setting up new offices. Desnos indicates Ambalavao as the village of origin. The use of the 10 datestamp from Fanasana is also based on the literature.

Numeral Datestamps

11 – Sakaleony, March 1904

11 – Arivonimamo, November 1902



Use of both styles of the numeral 11 datestamp, the former from Sakaleony to the unusual destination of Stockholm, and the latter from the village of Arivonimamo at a double (2 x 15c) French community rate. Single use of a 30c stamp to prepay this rate is scarce.

Numeral Datestamps
12 – Anjiro, December 1908
13 – Soanierana, May 1899



Use of numeral datestamps at the 10c French community rate in 1908 and the registered French community rate in 1899. The latter letter originated with the occupation forces. The May 10, 1899 date for this letter is the earliest recorded numeral cancel in this exhibit.

Numeral Datestamps

17 - Aniverano, November 1905

18 - Ambohimahaso, July 1902



Registered French community letters bearing numeral cancels 17 and 18 from 1905 and 1902, respectively.

Numeral Datestamps

19 – Ambato, October 1903

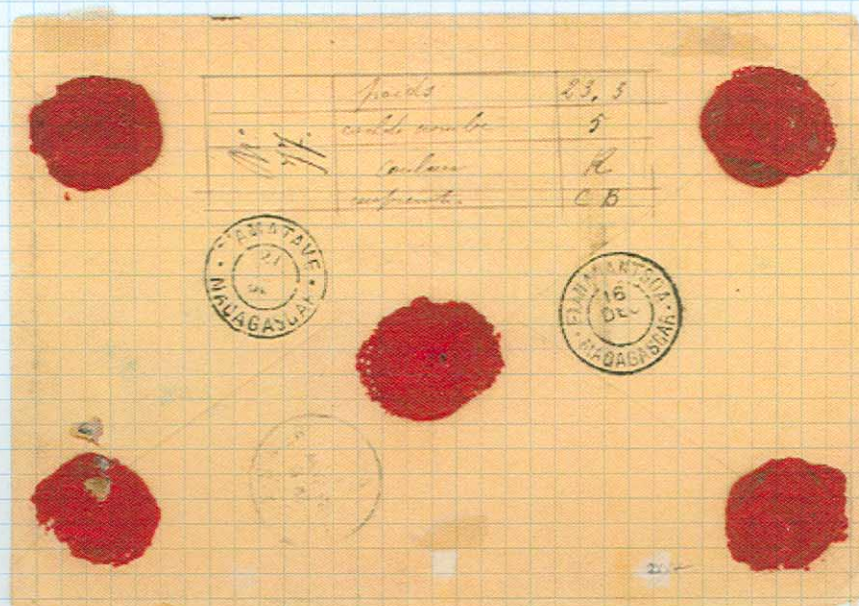
20 – Camp d'Ambre, February 1901

23 – Marolambo, May 1903



Letter to Stockholm employing numeral cancel 19, via Hellville, Nossi-Bé. Letter from Camp d'Ambre which began as a military recovery hospital, and postcard from Marolambo. The latter is 5c over franked.

Numeral Datestamps
28 – Betroka, December 1900



Exceptional insured money letter at a 95c rate with the stamps cancelled by the 28 datestamp of December 10, 1900. The endorsement at the lower left indicates that the letter originated in the small village of Betroka, and that military forces were still present in the area. Apparently the **CHARGÉ** handstamp was available at this office, but the reverse indicates that the cachet typically used for insured money letters was not available, and the postal clerk created one in manuscript. According to that cachet, the letter reached the second weight level at 23.3 grams, so the rate breakdown was: 30c postage; 25c registration and 40c insurance on a declared value of 550 francs. Transits via Fiananarantsoa and Tamatave are present on the reverse. The exhibitor is aware of but one other letter from this office at this time showing a hand drawn cachet.

Numeral Datestamps

30 – Befotaka, May 1909

31 – Manankavay, December 1905

33 – Farafangana, September 1909



The card associated with numeral cancel 31, posted December 1st, bears a dateline of **Manankavay, 30 Nov 1905** suggesting the village of origin, and the reverse shows a transit at Manjakandriana on December 1st. No listing of Manankavay can be found in the standard post office lists of Madagascar, however this village must have been close to Manjakandriana given that it reached this office on the day of posting.

Numeral Datestamps

35 – Ambinanimdrano, June 1913

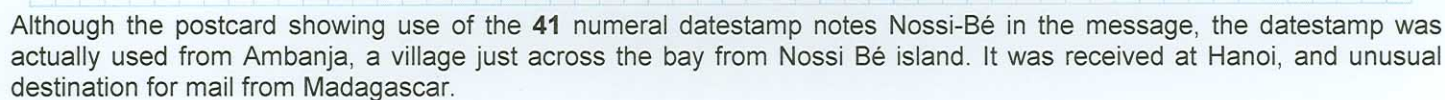
34 – Infandana, March 1914



Local letter from Ambinanimdrano in 1913, and overseas letter from Infandana in 1914 to Switzerland franked with Group Type 1912 overprints, a Zébu issue and two pictorial issues.

41 – Ambanja, December 1908

48 – Mahatainjo, November 1909



Numeral Datestamps

49 – Ampirazana, February 1909

49 – Kirboy, January 1902



Examples of both types of the 49 datestamp with the numeral at the top and the bottom used on a postcard to Peking and a 40c registered French community rate to Paris.

Numeral Datestamps

50 – Manantenina, March 1901

55 – Sakaramy, August 1907

56 – Sitampiky, March 1908



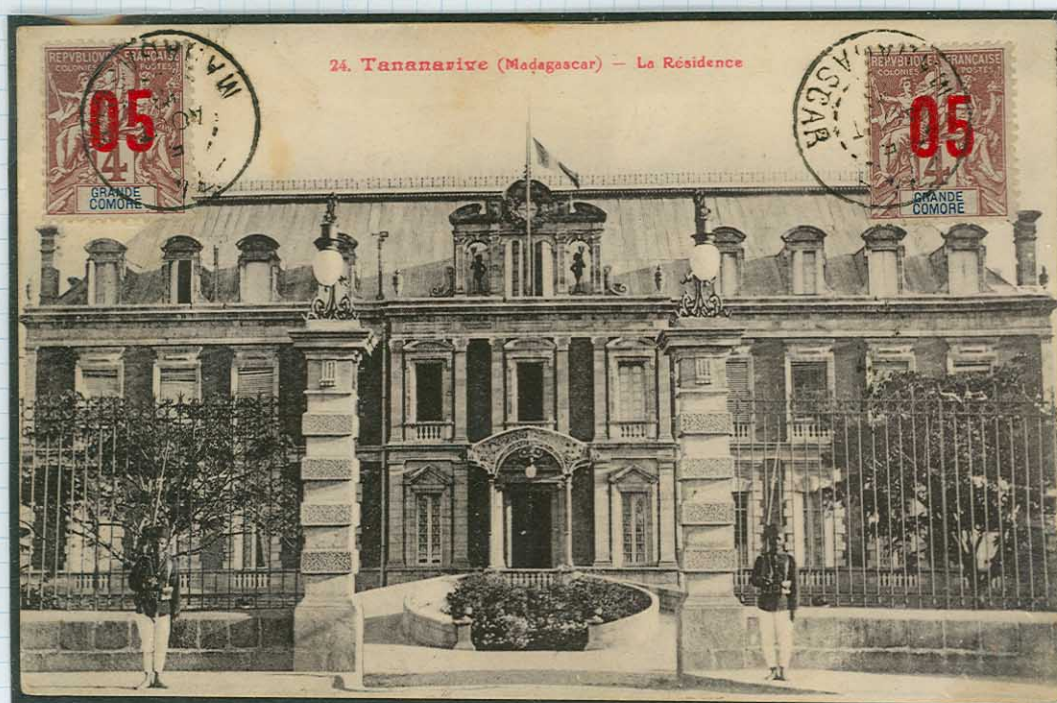
The dateline on the first postcard reads: **Manantenina 10 mars 1901**, and represents the first association with that village with numeral cancel 50.

Numeral Datestamps

61 – Vangaindrano, March 1908

61 – Vangaindrano, January 1910

74 – Mantasoa, August 1913



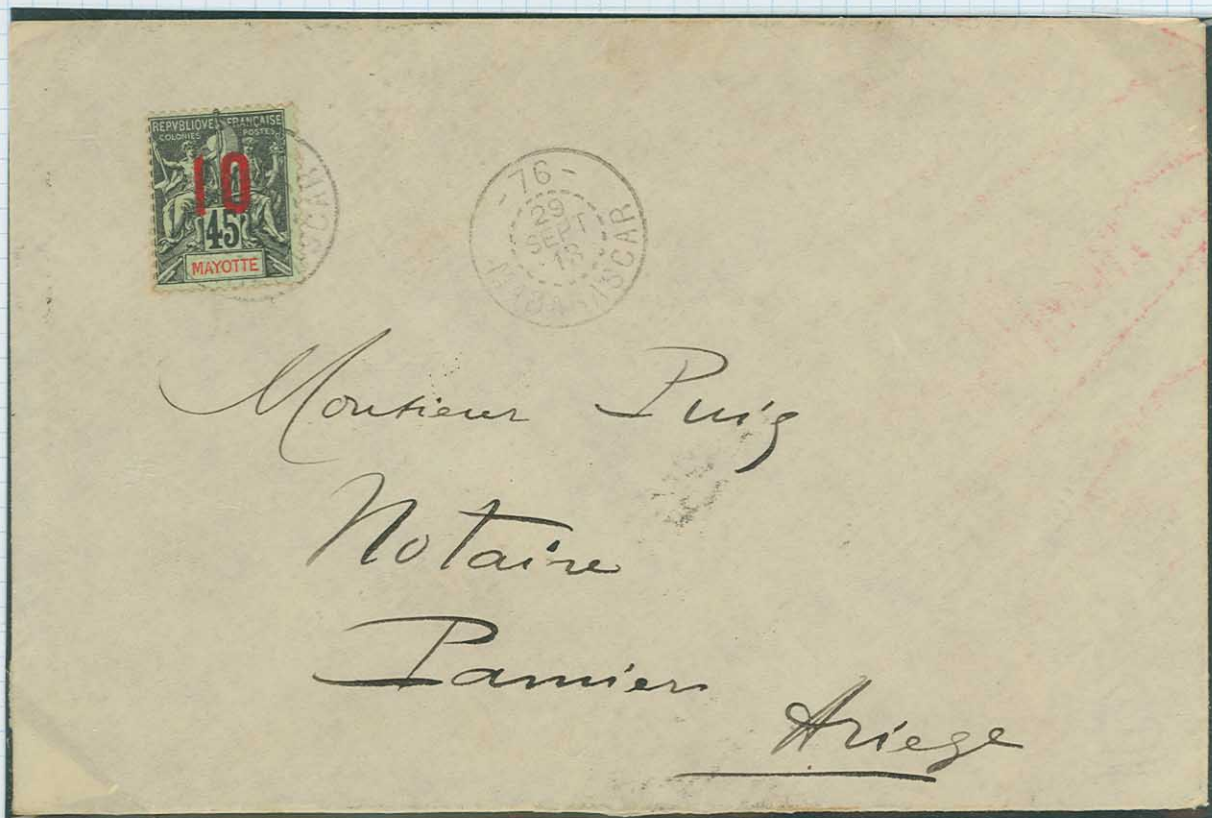
Vangaindrano is a small village south of the small village of Farafangana. Shown is use of the numeral 61 cancel from that village in 1908 and 1910. With almost two years between the sending of these cards, clearly there was no great rush about replacing the numeral datestamp with a normal one. Use of provisional datestamps could continue for years. The first card bears a second 5c stamp on the reverse. The second card was sent at the 5c printed matter rate, but on transiting through a French office it was recognized that it contained more than twelve words and required a 10c rate. It was marked due. The card transited via Aden, but it is uncertain whether the postage due was collected in Suva, Fiji. The last card bears a Mantasoa dateline.

Numeral Datestamps

78 – Camp d'Ambre, June 1908

81 – Midongy Sud, December 1908

76 – Betsiaka, August 1913



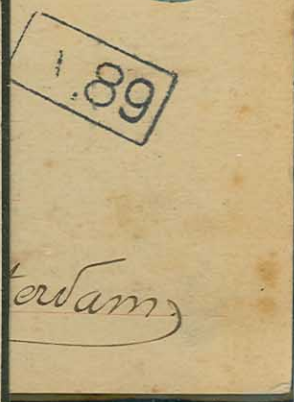
Rates shows are short message postcard, and two French community, the latter two at 10c.

Numeral Datestamps

86 – Miamdrivazo, October 1908

88 – Ranomafana, January 1909

84 – Fararohitra, November 1913



Each of these three numeral datestamps has a clear association of a small village post office noted on the front of each item. In each case these were the first associations of these numbers with these offices. The last letter is addressed to the American mentalist, A. Victor Segno, who would send his good vibrations to you twice a day for \$12/year to assure your health, happiness and general success in life. Professor Segno's ability to reach remote villages in the French Colonies in the early 1900's was an amazing feat of advertising for its time.

Numeral Datestamps

97 – Unknown, December 1907

99 – Tananarive 2, October 1907

99 – Tananarive 2, January 1908



No information is known on the use of the 97 numeral cancel, but this letter confirms its existence. Numeral 99 was employed at a newly opened Tananarive substation beginning in late 1907.

MADAGASCAR PROVISIONAL LETTER POSTMARKS

AB – Vohipeno, September 1901

NT – Sakaleony, February 1904



Provisional letter postmarks were very rarely used in lieu of the numeral postmarks in Madagascar. Shown is the only known copy of the **AB** provisional postmark on a 1901 cover to Norway. This is the discovery copy of this postmark used from Vohipeno, and the only recorded copy to date. Also shown is the **NT** postmark from 1902 with a Sakaleony return address in the Mahela region of Madagascar on the reverse. A few examples of this datestamp have been recorded.

MANANJARY: PROVISIONAL MUTE DATESTAMP



The small village of Mananjary used a mute triple-ringed datestamp briefly during 1899. Shown are two examples from March 1899 at the 10c postcard rate to Germany and the local rate to Tamatave. Both examples identify Mananjary as the originating office. A third example appears in the Tamatave Section of this exhibit, showing use of this cancel in May 1899 on a postage due stamp.

NUMERAL DATESTAMPS ON MILITARY FRANCHISE LETTERS

As noted, troops engaged in combat were given full military franchise for personal mail within the French Community. Often military franchise letters were processed through offices employing numeral cancels. Given the importance of the use of these cancels as a major area of current research, examples of these letters are included in this exhibit. Because of their scarcity, only a very few examples of numeral cancels on military franchise letters have been recorded.

15 – Ankavandra, February 1900

(via an Optical Telegraph)

17 – Unknown, August 1902

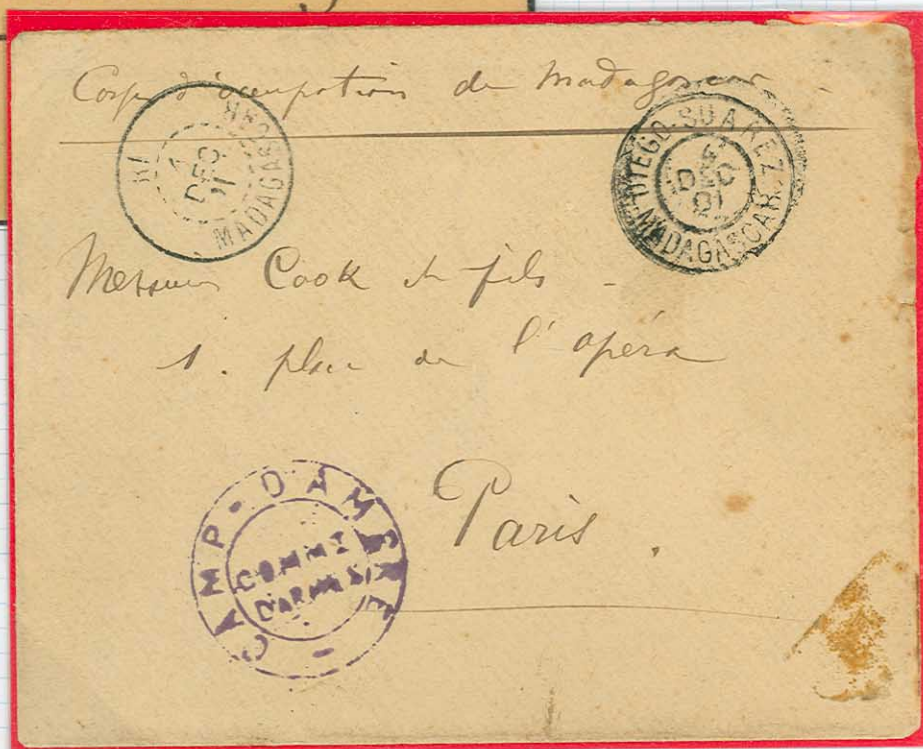
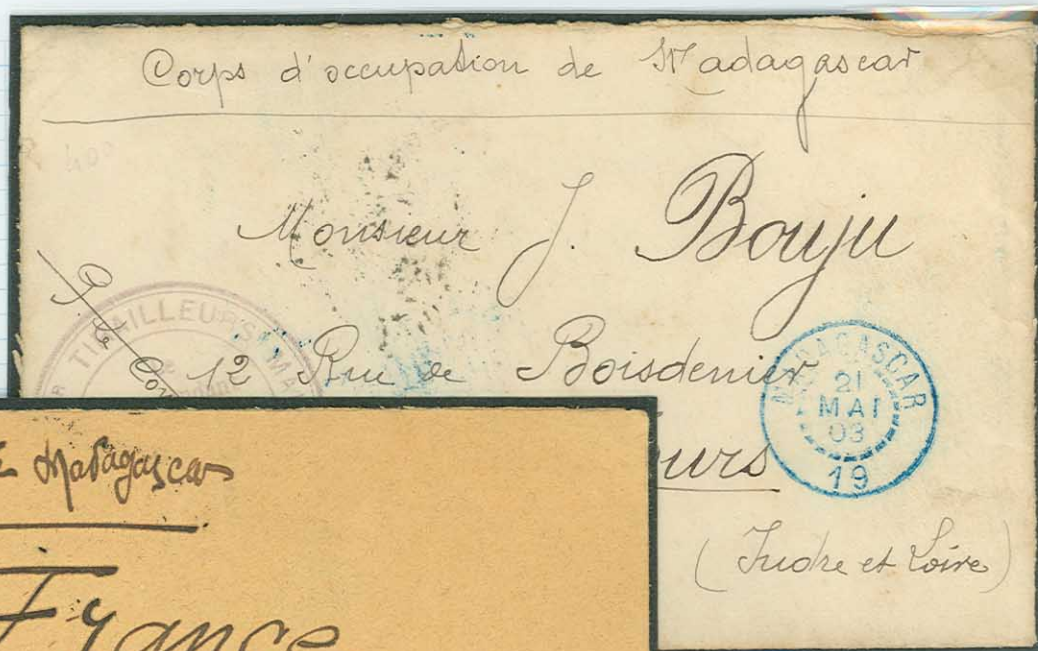
21 – Cap Diego, September 1902



The first letter was sent from the **Optical Telegraph Station at Tsitakabasia** to the post office at Ankavandra which employed the numeral cancel 15. To date no specific office has been associated with numeral cancel 17, however the cachet on the letter above suggests that the office was located on a railroad line. Note the clear association of cancel 21 with the Cap Diego endorsement at the lower right of the second letter.

NUMERAL AND LETTER DATESTAMPS ON MILITARY FRANCHISE LETTERS

19 – Ambato, 1903
49 – Kiboy, 1901
RI – Camp d'Ambre, 1901



The rarest provisional datestamp on a military franchise letter is the RI datestamp used at Camp d'Ambre at Diego Suarez in 1901. The letter shown is the discovery and only recorded copy of the use of this cancel. Cachets on the front and back confirm the location of its use from Camp d'Ambre near Diego Suarez.

MADAGASCAR MILITARY FRANCHISE POSTAL STATIONERY



Unique to the colony of Madagascar, military franchise postal stationery was created for use of the troops in 1895 in the form of letter cards and postcards. These are readily available in unused condition and philatelically used, but properly used examples are difficult to find. Shown are properly used examples (full private messages) of the letter card and postcard in the proper period just before Madagascar became a colony in 1896. Both bear the military cancels in use at the time, the first from Majunga (2 ^{OR} ET P^{ES} AUX ARMEES 2 MADAGASCAR) to the most unusual destination of Saigon, Indochina; and the second from Tananarive (5 ^{OR} ET P^{ES} AUX ARMEES 5 MADAGASCAR) to France. The military offices handling this mail were soon to be replaced by regular civilian offices.

USE OF FRENCH FRANCHISE MILITAIRE STAMPS FROM MADAGASCAR

Beginning June 1901 each member of the enlisted French military forces on station was entitled to two free French Community letters per month for which they received two French **F.M.** overprint stamps. Use from France is common; use from any of the colonies is much less so. Registration was not covered and required franking in postage stamps.



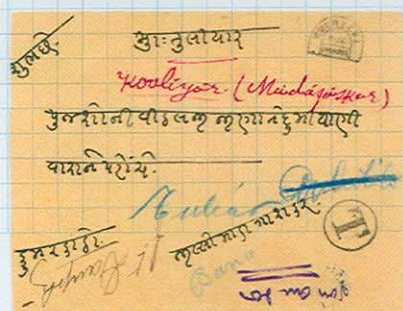
Shown are: use from French Packet Line V; the village of Sitampiky employing numeral cancel 58; and Diego Suarez with an additional 25c stamp for registration.

REFUSED MILITARY FRANCHISE MAIL



The military franchise privilege could be rejected for various reasons. Typically, there was insufficient validation (cachet, manuscript endorsement and commander's signature), and the items were marked due by the initiating post office, or the sender's unit had not been granted the franchise privilege. Such was the case with the two postcards above, the first originating on Line V of the French Packet service and received due in France, and the second from Paris arriving due in Majunga. The last letter has a proper endorsement and signature on the reverse, however, the franchise privilege did not apply to letters over the first 15 gram weight class. This letter reached the second weight level (17.50 grams), which was noted by the sending office, and the letter was charged 60c due on arrival in Lyon, double the 30c postage.

MADAGASCAR: PROVISIONAL USE AS POSTAGE DUE STAMPS



Unpaid letter from Montmeyran, France on June 6, 1913 where T in triangle was applied for due, arriving in the small village of Manjakandriana on July 13th where a 10c due stamp and two 05/4 1912 overprints were applied indicating the correct 20c due (double the existing 10c French Community rate). The second letter was posted unpaid from India in 1908 (encircled T) to Ambohibe, Madagascar where it was forwarded to Tuléar. Three 10c Duval due stamps and one 20c Group Type stamp were applied to collect the correct 50c due. **These are the only recorded uses of Group Type stamps as provisional postage due stamps from the colony of Madagascar.**

MADAGASCAR – FORWARDED LETTERS



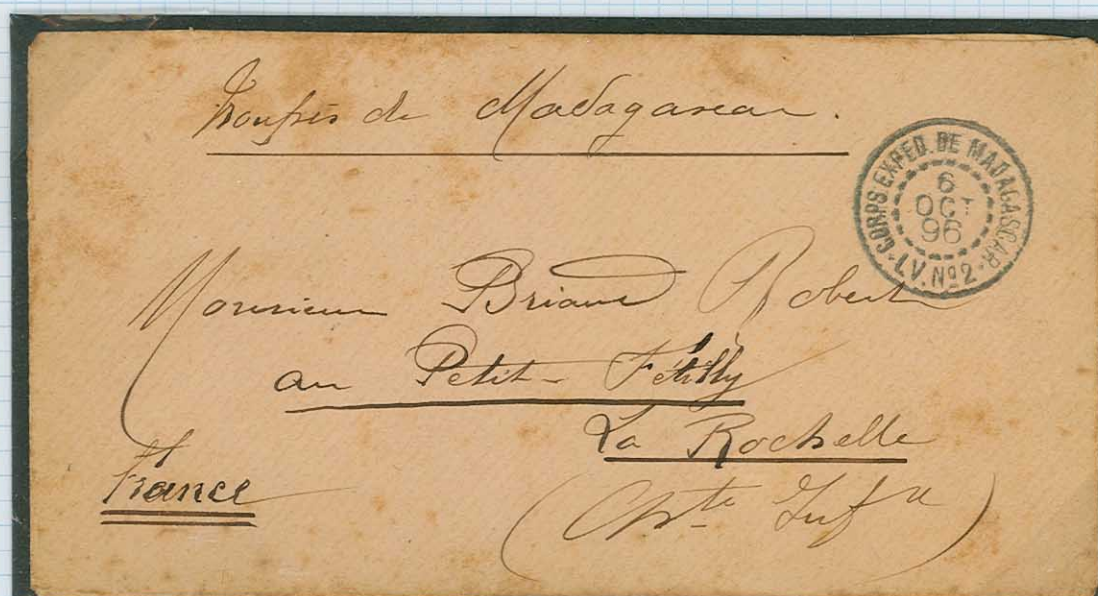
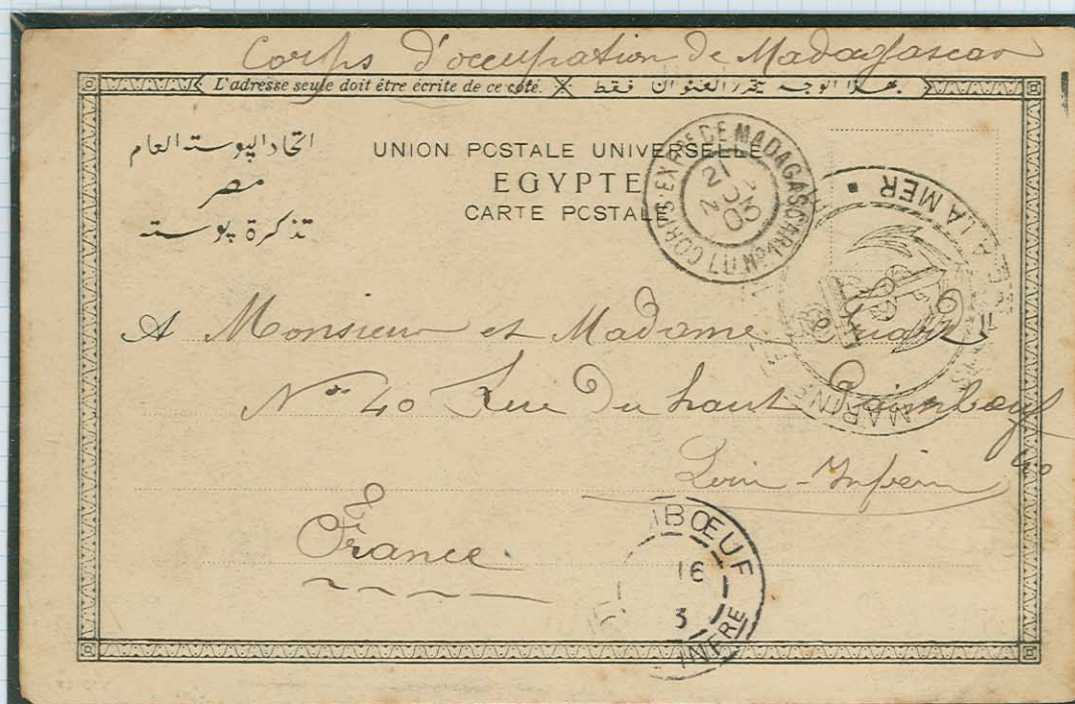
Certain letters required additional postage for forwarding. Letters sent at reduced French community rates required additional postage for forwarding to foreign destinations. The additional postage brought the rates up to the current international UPU rates. Two examples to the French community are shown: the 15c rate raised to the 25c rate; and the 40c registered rate raised to the 50c international registered rate, to England in this case. The last example shows a 25c UPU rate to England, charged an additional 1½d for forwarding to Switzerland.



As already noted, Madagascar was served by the Reunion-Marseille (Line U and Line V) of the French Packet service. Mail posted at the dock or on board the packet was cancelled with standard French Packet datestamps, which were octagonal in shape. Shown are two postings on the line. The first was on the inward leg (Marseille a la Reunion) in 1901 employing a 25c letter card of Nossi-Bé, overpaying the French Community Rate by 10c. The message inside was written from Nossi-Bé, and the sender notes that this card was available to him. The second item was posted on the packet at Diego Suarez in March 1893 employing a 15c Diego Suarez et Dependances envelope uprated to the double weight rate with Diego Suarez provisionals. Posted to the rare destination of Rumania it was received on March 28th.



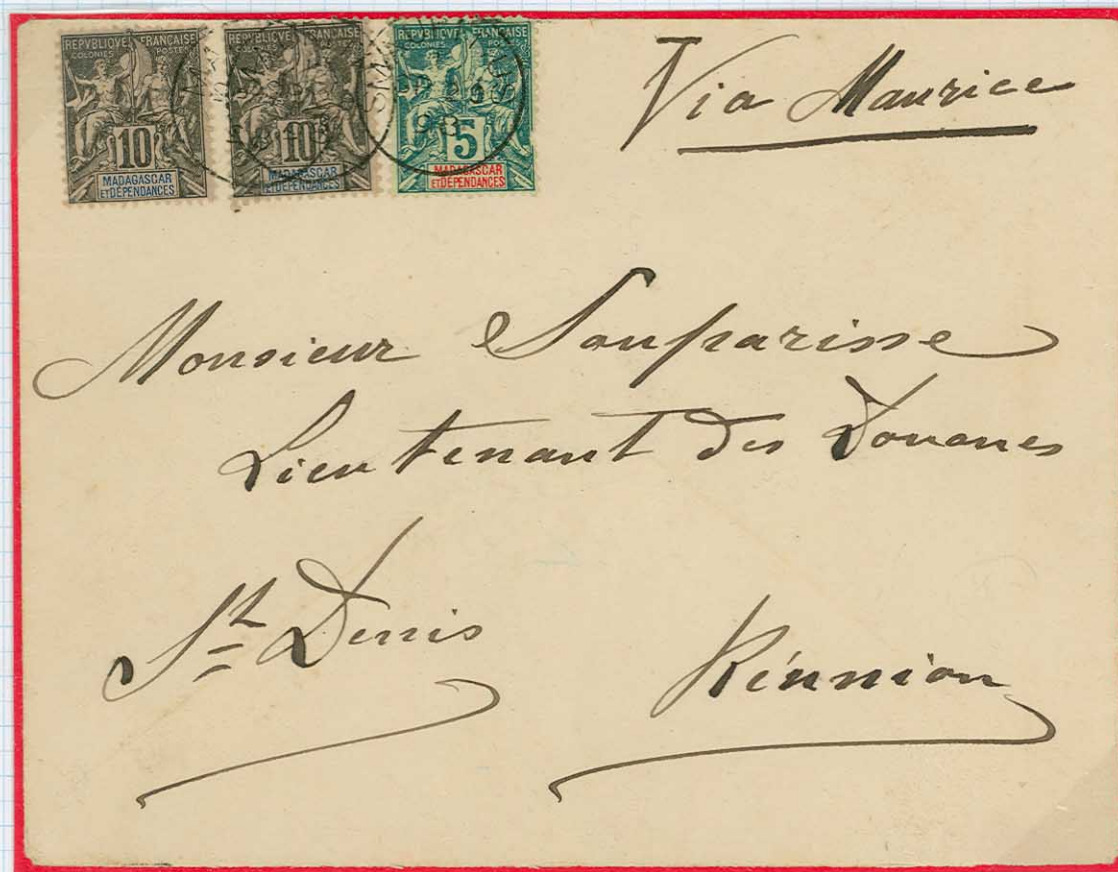
Registered letters posted on the Reunion-Marseille Packet in 1902. The first at an incorrect overseas rate, unless it was posted at a port outside of the French community, to Anjouan in the Comoro Islands, posted on the packet and then apparently transferred to a local sailing ship for delivery. The second is at the proper French community registered rate of 40c to France. It was posted on the inward-bound Marseille-Reunion leg of the service on July 19, 1902, and then the outward-bound Reunion-Marseille leg on August 3rd.



Military franchise letters could also be posted directly on the French Packets or at the dock and were processed on board the ships. These items illustrate the military packet datestamps used on Lines U and V specifically for the French forces in Madagascar. The first item is a rarely seen postcard from 1903 to which the franchise privilege also applied. The second, from 1896, is a traditional letter.



Letters posted on passing ships from Tuléar and the Betsileo area. The former is franked at the 25c overseas rate and was posted on a ship to Durban, Natal where it received the datestamp: **DURBAN S AFRICA, 7 JUN 13** on arrival along with the **PAQUEBOT** handstamp of that city en route to Switzerland where it arrived on June 30th. The latter is franked at the 10c French Community rate and received the **MARSEILLE ST CHARLES PAQUEBOT** cancel upon arrival in France. It was designated to travel on the ship *Ville d'Alger*. Generally such letters are rarely seen from Madagascar because of the excellent service provided by the Reunion-Marseille Line.



Postcard posted on the Austrian light cruiser Zenta in while in Tamatave harbor in 1902 to a member of the crew. Also, overseas rate letter from 1898 to Saint Denis Reunion posted onboard a ship traveling to Mauritius where the stamps were cancelled **MAURITIUS, SP 29 98** on arrival, and then sent on to Saint Denis, Reunion via an established service where it arrived on September 30th.

MADAGASCAR – THE 1904 BISECTS



From February to August 1904 there was an ALLEGED shortage of stamps at various Madagascar offices (Diego Suarez, Vohemar, Antalaha, etc.). To meet this "need" various Group Type issues were bisected and special handstamps were created indicating the unusual frankings were due to a shortage of stamps. These bisects were complete philatelic inspirations, and were done without the approval of the Ministry of Posts in Paris. Most covers are to Madagascar destinations, with many not having traveled through the mails. Examples from Diego Suarez that traveled through the mails are shown. The first shows a bisect of the 30c stamp prepaying the 15c French community rate to Reunion; the second a bisect of the 30c and a 40c stamp prepaying the 55c registered double weight local rate to Tamatave; and the last fabricated with only bisects (possibly of the same stamp!) prepaying 50c registered rate to Zanzibar via Natal, a very unusual destination. This exhibitor does not consider these bisects a significant part of real Madagascar postal history, and they are noted by this page for reference only.

THE OVERPRINTS OF 1921 – REVALUATION OF THE GROUP TYPE

In 1921 remainders of the 75c and 1F Group Types were overprinted 0,60 and 1 FR. respectively to conform to existing rates and to facilitate their use. These are the very latest overprints on Group Type stamps of any of the colonies.



Shown are examples of the first overprint prepaying the local registered rate on letters from Antsirabe and Tananarive (the newly opened office at Place Colbert). The overprint on the first letter is inverted.



Examples of the 1 FR. overprint used to prepay a registered overseas letter to Switzerland in 1922, and used to prepay an insured money letter at a rate of 1F75c in 1924 from the small village of Ambatondrazaka to Marseille at a value of 3000 francs.

USE OF GROUP TYPE 1 Fr./5F OVERPRINT STAMPS ON AIR MAIL LETTERS



Concluding this exhibit are two of the oldest recorded non-philatelic uses of Group Type stamps from any of the colonies – 1928 and 1938. The first is a registered letter based on a 50c Mail Carrier Bearers stationery envelope brought to the 13.50f airmail rate from Tananarive on December 7, 1928 to Paris; and the second a registered air mail letter posted from the small village of Fianarantsoa on March 28, 1938 to France via Tananarive at the 5F50c rate. The letter was received on April 7, 1938. Madagascar is the only French colony from which it is possible to show this late usage.