



The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Part IV Postal History From Senegal & Dependencies

Edward Grabowski

Westfield Stamp Club

Hamilton Stamp Club

Collectors Club



The French Colonial Allegorical Group Type

- Issue created in 1892 as first definitive for ALL of the French Colonies
- Allegorical figures of Navigation and Commerce
- Colony name printed in a separate printing - Twenty-nine different legends exist
- Printed in panes of 25 arranged 2 x 3 to give 150 stamps per sheet
- Values of 1c to 1F for most colonies; 1c to 5F for some
- Full grouping of postal stationery – post cards, letter cards and envelopes



Proof pair showing colonies of
Senegal and Mayotte

Proofs on Bristol Card with Simulated Perforations Issued for the 1900 Paris Exposition



The French Colonial Group Type

- Ongoing odyssey to prepare 8 postal history exhibits of 70 frames on this issue – that's 1120 pages
 - Completed: **Indochina & the French Offices in China (10); The French Pacific Colonies (New Caledonia and French Oceania (9)); Madagascar & Dependencies (10); Senegal & Dependencies (French Sudan, Senegambia & Niger and French Guinea (10))**
 - In process: **French Indian Ocean Colonies** (Obock, Reunion & French India)
 - To do: **French West African & Equatorial Colonies** (Ivory Coast, Benin-Dahomey & French Congo-Gabon); **Guadeloupe & Saint Pierre & Miquelon**; and **Martinique & French Guiana**

The French Colonial Group Type

- Ongoing odyssey to prepare 8 postal history exhibits of 70+ frames on this issue – that's 1120+ pages
- Complete
 - **Indochina & The French Offices in China (10)**
 - **The French Pacific Colonies (8)**
 - **Madagascar & Dependencies (10)**
 - **Senegal & Dependencies (10)**
- In Progress
 - **The Indian Ocean Colonies (8)**
- To Do
 - **French West African & Equatorial Colonies (10)**
 - **Guadeloupe and Saint Pierre & Miquelon (10)**
 - **Martinique and French Guiana (10)**
- Show it all at once someplace

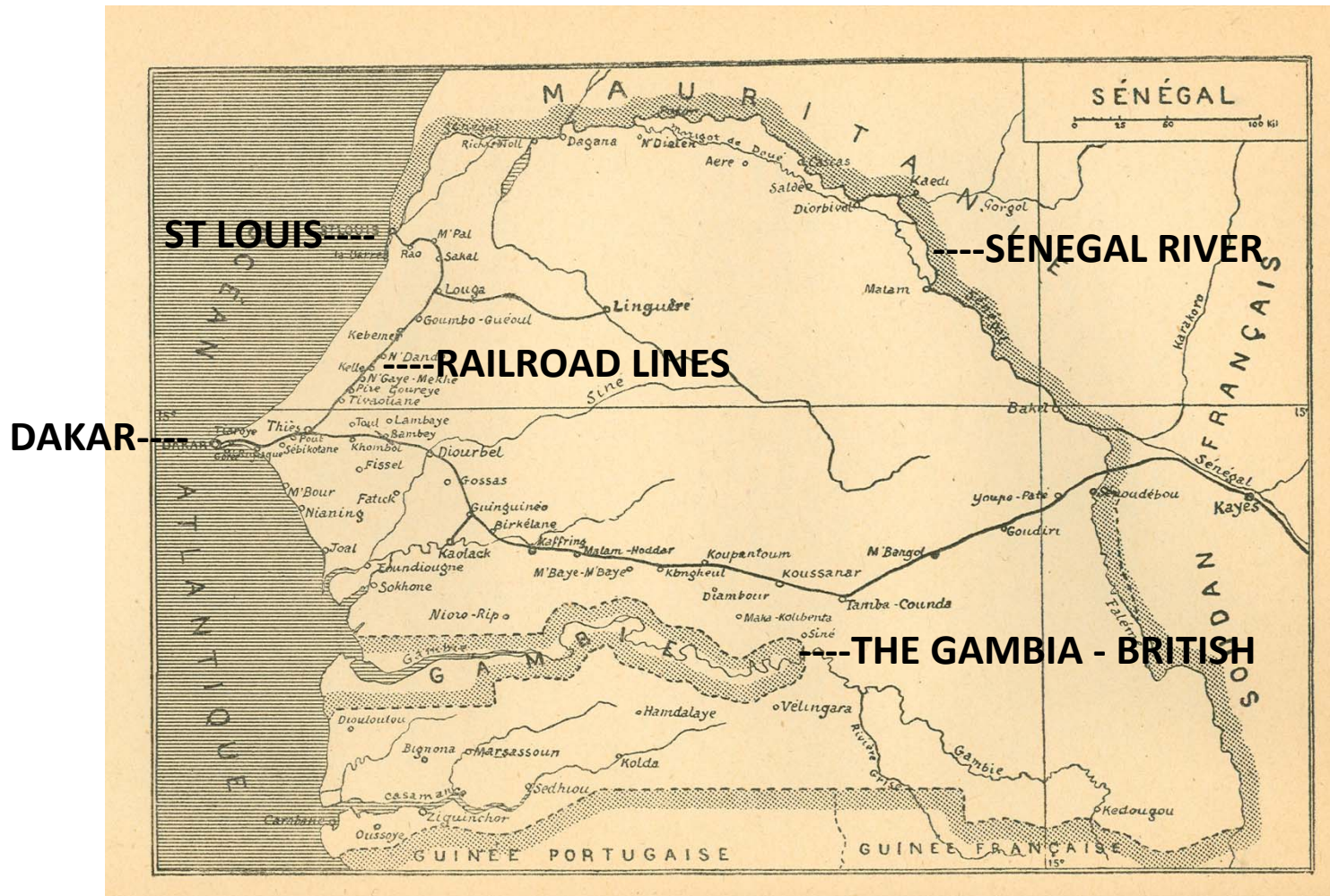
Why Collect the Group Type?

- It is fun and there was a lot going on!
- Every colony has a distinct personality and its own unique traits
 - Indochina has very different problems from Guadeloupe
 - Senegal is very different from the French Sudan
 - Limited literature
 - There is always something new
- The 1892 – 1915 period was one of intense French colonial development (military, political and economic)
 - This is reflected in the postal history of the Group Type
- The colonies were not ruled with an iron fist from Paris – they developed unique solutions to local postal problems which are reflected in the postal history

The Group Type Era: Senegal & Dependencies

- **Senegal:** Well established colony with early French history extending back to the 17th and 18th centuries
 - Received Group Type stamps in 1892
- **French Sudan:** Evolving entity created by French expansion to the east and northeast of Senegal in the 1890's
 - Received Group Type stamps in May 1894
- **Senegambia & Niger:** Administrative entity created from parts of the French Sudan, renamed Upper Senegal & Niger
 - Received Group Type stamps in July 1903
- **French Guinea:** Formed in the 1880's as Rivières du Sud under the administration of Senegal
 - Received Group Type stamps in 1892

Senegal - Map



NUMEROUS SMALL VILLAGES ALONG RAIL LINES AND RIVERS

Principal Rates in Effect

- **Printed Matter & Business Papers:** 5c per 50g
- **Post Card:**
 - 5c for 12 words or less
 - 10c for greater than 12 words
- **Overseas:** 25c per 15g
- **French Community:**
 - 25c per 15g until January 1899
 - 15c until April 1906
 - 10c thereafter
- **Military Concession:** 15c per 15g until January 1899
- **Registration:** 25c, 15c special rate for regional mail
- **Declared Value Letters:** Postage by weight and destination, plus 25c registration, plus insurance by value
- **Avis de Réception:** 10c

Senegal Postal Fraud

- Printed matter rate of 5c per 50g
- Combination of 1c and 4c stamps to prepay rate
- Posted locally in Saint Louis on April 8, 1895
- Most probably addressed by a Senegalese native based on style of writing
- What is the fraudulent aspect of this envelope?

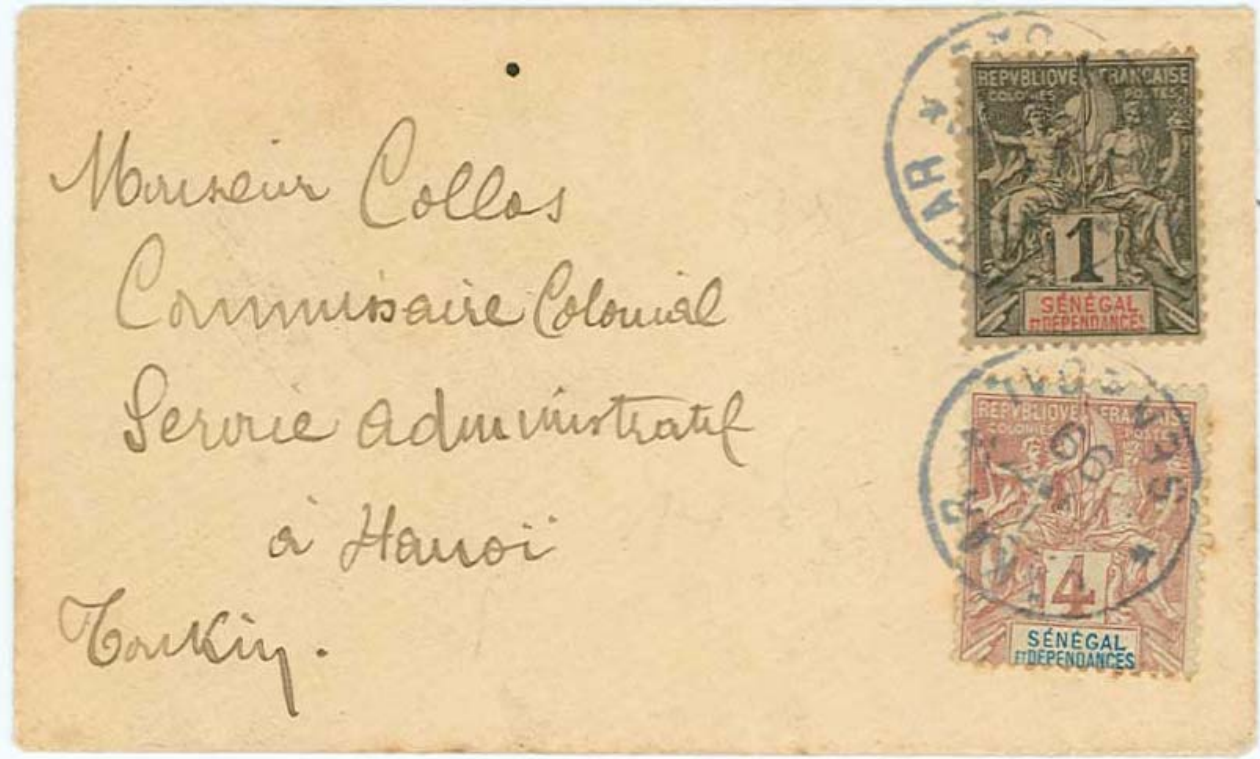


SENEGAL – POSTAL FRAUD



Only recorded example of
Group Type postal fraud

Dakar 5c Printed Matter Rate to Hanoi



Received: February 19, 1899

Dakar – 25c Rate to France

- Rate in effect until January 1899
- Commercial letter showing use of low value Group Type stamps plus 5c Type Dubois issue of the French Colonies General Issues
- Posted March 23, 1894
- Via French Packet Line J



Dakar - 25c Rate to France



Dakar: Declared Value Letter (Insured Money Letter)

- Posted Dakar on September 26, 1905
- Declared Value denoted by **CHARGÉ** handstamp and manuscript endorsement for 6500 francs
- Rate determined by cachet on reverse: 30c postage for 22g + 25c registration + 4F40c insurance on 6500 francs = 4F95c.



Valeur déclarée : Six mille cinq cents francs

gof



CHARGÉ



Monsieur A. Louhier
Conducteur des ponts & chaussées
103 Rue Fondaudou
Bordeaux



P.	POIDS		CACHETS	
	GR.	G.	NOMIN.	F.M.P.
5	12	50	S R	S.V

je suis 22 grammes

957

Dakar Registered Business Papers

- Special rate of 5c/50g for business papers
- Endorsement required
- Allowed writing and signatures
- Quadruple rate (4 x 5c for <200g) registered wrapper (25c) = 45c



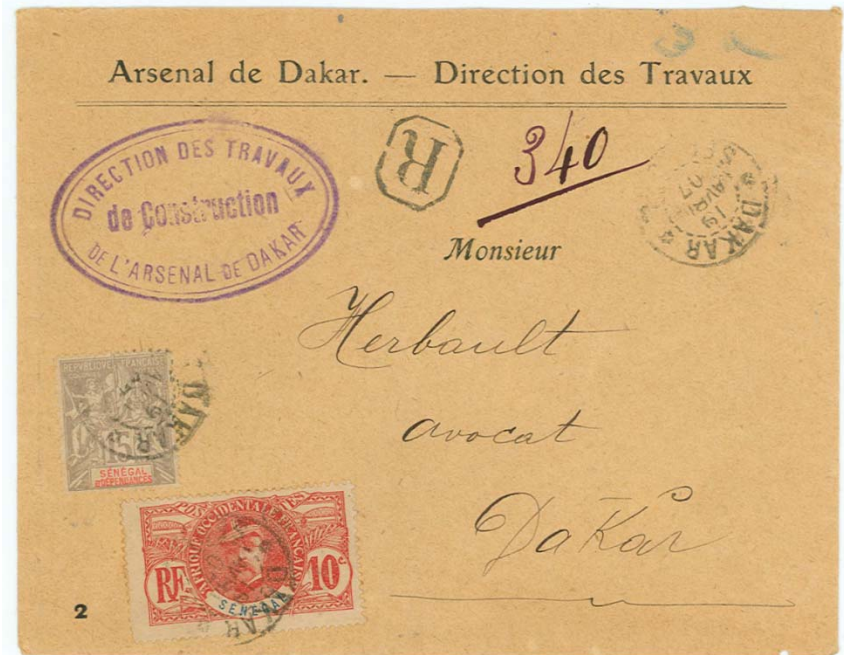
Papiers d'affaires



Special Registry Rate of 15c

Applicable to Senegal, Sudan, etc.

- For reasons that are uncertain, Senegal, the French Sudan, Senegambia & Niger and Upper Senegal & Niger had a special 15c regional rate for registration in lieu of 25c
- Rate not seen in other French colonies
- Local letter at 25c = 10c postage (1907 letter rate was 10c) + 15c registration
- Mixed Group and Faidherbe franking



Ex Stone

Arsenal de Dakar. — Direction des Travaux



340

Monsieur



Herbault

avocat

Dakar

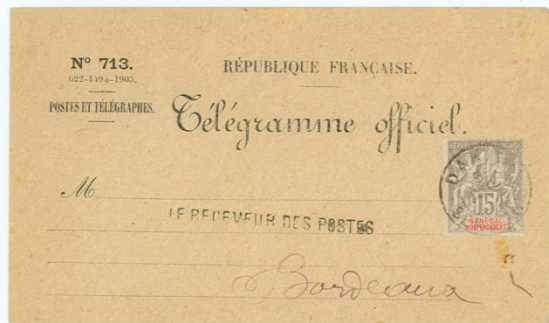
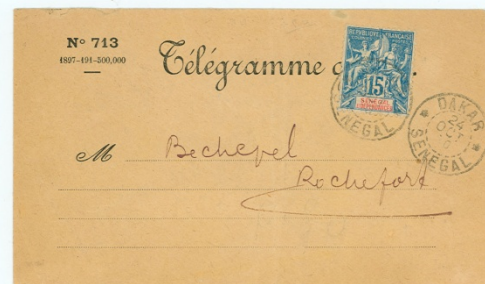


2

Dakar – Telegram Letters

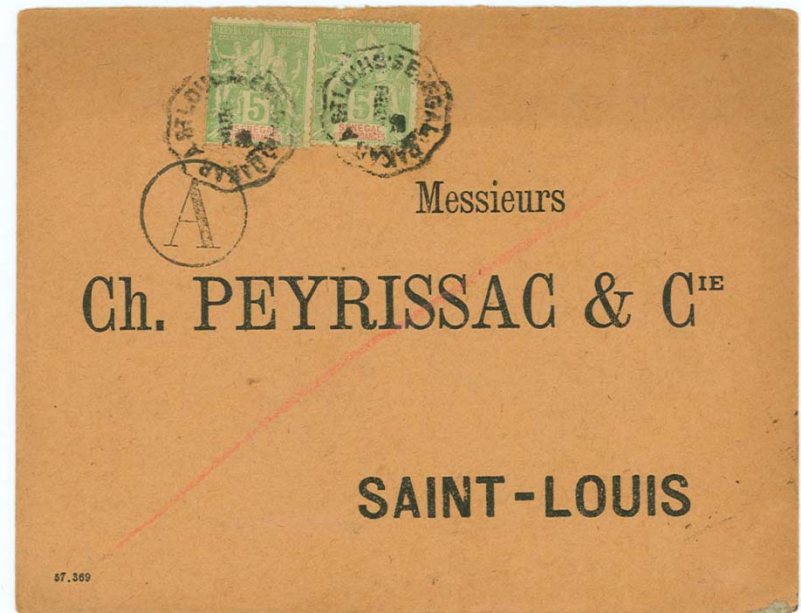
- To speed sending of letters from the interior, messages could be sent by telegram to Dakar, where they entered the regular mails
- Regular rates applied from Dakar
- Shown: Registered overseas rate (25c + 25c)
- See next slide for various forms and frankings





Shortage of Stamps in Dakar during January - February 1902

- Prepayment in cash for the emergency authorized
- Encircled **A** was to denote prepayment in cash
- Normally prepayment was for full 15c French Community rate
- Only recorded example wherein 10c of the rate was prepaid in stamps and 5c in cash
- Posted on the Dakar-St Louis rail line
- Commercial correspondence





Messieurs

Ch. PEYRISSAC & C^{IE}

SAINT-LOUIS

57.369



Envelope Showing Prepayment of 5c Printed Matter Rate in Cash to Conakry, French Guinea



Shortage of Stamps in Rufisque, Senegal – January 1902

- Printed matter – New Year's greetings prepaid in cash at 5 centimes on January 11, 1902
- Manuscript endorsement, handstamp and signature noting such
- Encircled **A** applied in upper right
- Stamp placed over **A** on January 18th, stamp cancelled and letter placed in regular mails
- Backstamped in France
- Two examples recorded



affranchie en Mméraire
POSTES & TÉLÉGRAPHES

de France



Mlle
Mademoiselle
Marie Bouyane
43 rue St Pierre
Orthez
(Basses Pyrénées)



Senegal 1903 Overprints

- Created to supplement shortage of lower value, i.e. most used, Group Type stamps
- Generally rare used on cover
- Triple weight (3 x 15c) registered letter (25c) for a 70c rate with request for return receipt (10c on receipt)



Gouvernement Général
de
l'Afrique Occidentale
Française



France
Hgr
Gaeves



Madame Lamarese 1744



Rue Guersant 28

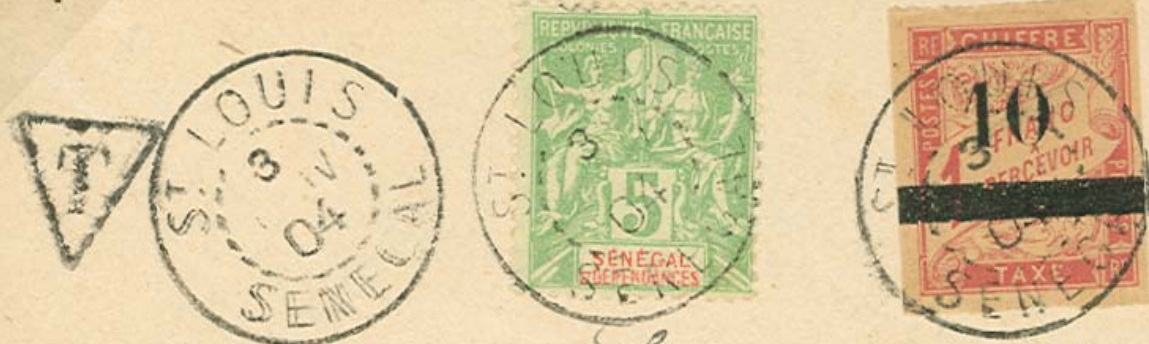
Paris

17

Senegal: 1903 Overprints

- Overprints created in 1903 on high valued regular and due stamps to create needed lower values
- Letter posted at 5c printed matter rate, but rated at 10c local rate (manuscript enclosure?)
- **T** in triangle applied for due and **10c/1F** due stamp applied
- Only recorded example of this due stamp on cover





Monsieur Genormand

rue de l'Intendance

à St-Louis

Military Concession Rate of 15c

- Applicable until January 1899 in lieu of the 25c regular French overseas rate
- Applicable to French Community destinations only
- Available to troops on station; troops in combat generally received full military franchise
- Commander's endorsement and signature or unit cachet required for validation (on reverse)
- Remarkable combination of letter card (very rare for this rate), special military datestamp and French Packet Line J military datestamp





CARTES POSTALES



AC. Le Receveur des
Postes & Télégraphes à
Dourakou

(Fana)

(Sinière)

Small Village Use

- There were about 24 small villages in Senegal around 1900
- Mail from these villages is generally rare and difficult to find
- Most were located along the rail lines and the rivers
- This collection represents the largest accumulation of Group Type material from the small village offices of Senegal and the Sudan ever assembled

Saldé, Senegal

- Located in the northern-most part of the colony along a tributary of the Senegal River
- Posted on October 21, 1893 at the 25c rate to France
- Franked with Type Dubois (General Issues) and Type Group stamps
- Missed regular French Packet
- Posted at Dakar on a passing commercial ship calling at Dunkerque
- Rare: **OUTREMER DUNKERQUE** maritime arrival in France
- Only example from this office noted in 35 years of collecting
- Only example of use of old style French Maritime datestamp in the entire collection of the Group Type Issue



France



Monsieur Lion Bardon

Avenue de la gare

Perpignan



Pyramides - Vaindaly

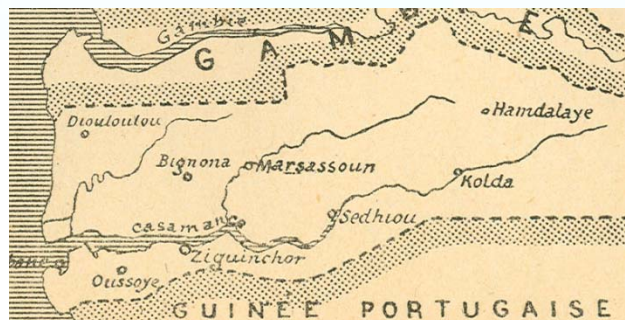


Nowhere to Nowhere – 1904

Ziguinchor, Senegal – Szabadka, Hungary

- Letter from a small village to a small town
- Ziguinchor is a small village below the Gambia in Senegal
- Posted to Szabadka, Hungary about 100 km south of Budapest
- Monsieur Elemér Milkò, who was 7 years old at the time, worked with Raoul Wallenberg in 1944 to save tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews
- His mother was a stamp collector
- Information provided by Juilo Milkò – his son now living in Brazil





Elemér Milkò – Born 1897

- **New addition to "Documenting Wallenberg" project**
- Elmer Milko was one of Raoul Wallenberg's closest collaborators in Budapest. He used to go to the bank of the Danube River in order to save people who were waiting to be shot. With the help of his son Julio, he organized the distribution of medicine and food, and the manufacturing of false identity papers. Julio Milko's astonishing account about his father, Raoul Wallenberg, and WWII in Budapest is the new addition to our "Documenting Wallenberg" project.



Szabadka, Hungary

- Historic town 100 km south of Budapest; now Subotica, Serbia
- Since 1391 there have been more than 200 versions of the name of this town – a reflection of the ethnicity of its numerous inhabitants and the turmoil of its history





Mauritania: Sept – Dec 1906

Provisional Postage Due Stamps

- During late 1906 the colony of Mauritania, just north of Senegal, was being formed
- The French Colonial Faidherbe, Palmiers & Bally set (1c – 5F) was provided
- Provisional due stamps created by overprinting this set with a **T**, normally in triangle
- Letter **posted unpaid from the small village of Bakel, Senegal to the small village of Selibaby** in Sept 1906 at the 5c printed matter rate charged 10c due (double the deficiency)
- It represents **non-use** of the Group Type
- One of ~5 known non-philatelic examples recorded



Bakel, Senegal to Selibaby, Mauritania

Genuine Use of Provisional Due Stamp



Mauritania Provisional Postage Due Stamps

- Unpaid letter posted from Saint Louis on November 7, 1906 to Boghé, Mauritania
- Marked with a **T** in triangle for postage due in Saint Louis
- In Boghé the letter was found to be of the third weight level (3 x 10c = 30c) and charged 60c due, double the postage
- Provisional dues were used to collect the balance due
- Genuine, non-philatelic use





0.60



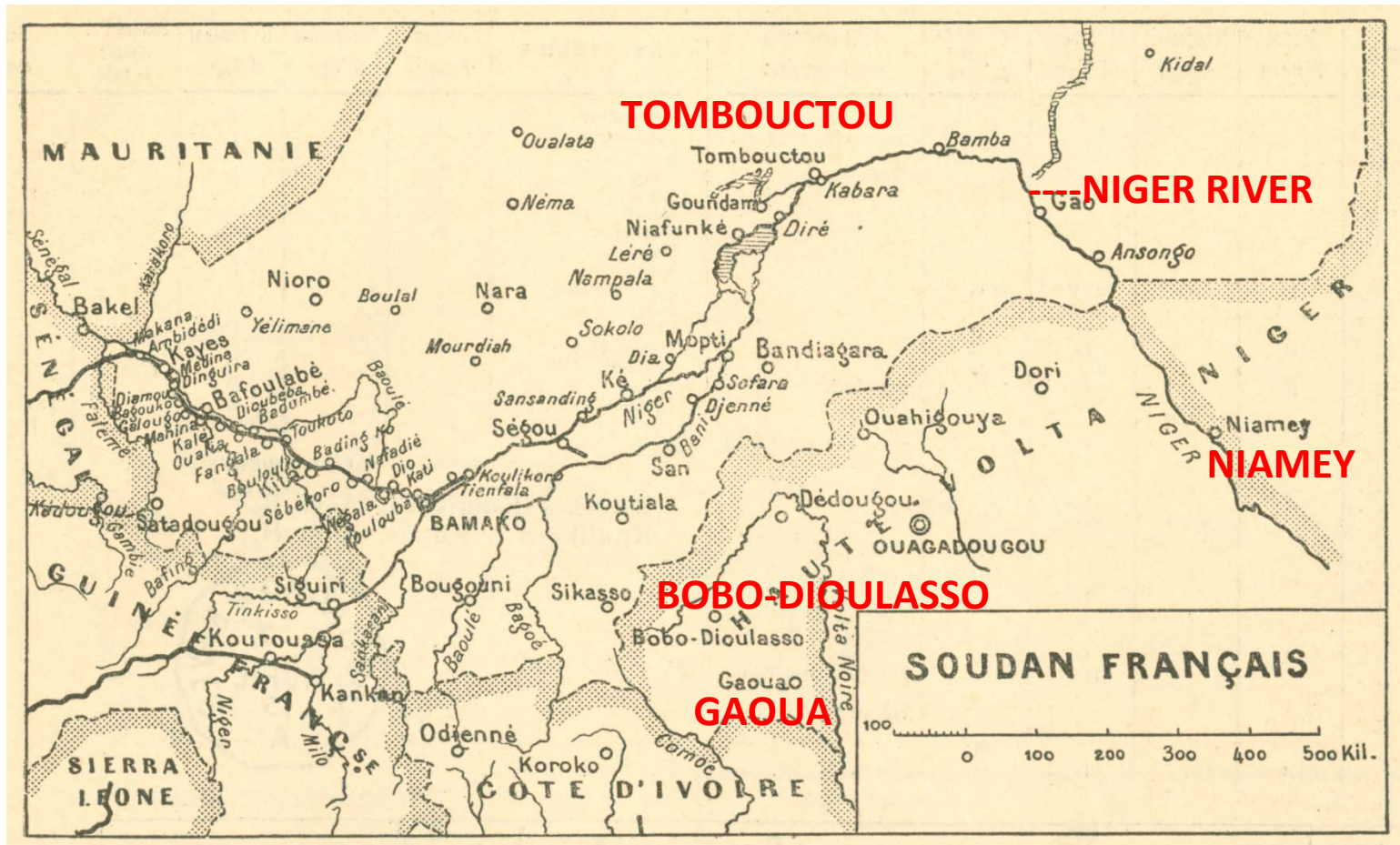
Maurice Abay
Administrateur des Colonies



Boghe

Mauritance

French Sudan



French Sudan/Senegambia & Niger

- Beginning in May of 1894 **SOUDAN FRANÇAIS** Group Type stamps were used from the developing Sudan
- In July 1903 new Group Type stamps with **SENEGAMBIE ET NIGER** gradually replaced the Sudan issue reflecting development of the colony
 - Use of these stamps is rare
 - They saw very limited use as the Faidherbe/Palmiers/Ballay issues replaced them
- Area datestamps reflect the development of the colony as the entity names changed from **SOUDAN FRANÇAIS** to **SENEGAMBIE ET NIGER** to **HAUT SENEGAL ET NIGER** (and then in 1920 it became **SOUDAN FRANCAIS** again!)

Arrival of the Postal Boat



Shortage of Stamps in Kayes in August - September 1894

- Prepayment of rate in cash
- Special handstamp created
- Amount of postage written in manuscript
- Stamps and stationery of Senegal also used



France

TAXE PERÇUE: 0^{fr} 25^c
Marque de Timbres dans
la Colonie.



Madame ~~Charles~~ ~~de~~ ~~la~~ ~~Roche~~ ~~de~~ ~~la~~ ~~Roche~~

13 rue de Nanterre

Paris



Provisional 25c/1F First Issue plus 5c Group Type from Kayes

- Registered regional rate of 30c = 15c local postage plus 15c regional registration
- Use of provisional first issue overprint (cat used 2000 euros) plus 5c Group Type of **Senegal** to make the rate
- Posted Kayes (Capital) to Rufisque, Senegal on Sept 13, 1894



Recommandée



189



Monsieur C. Le Maître de Mayford

Contrôleur - aff. des Douanes

Rufisque.

Sénégal

Barthe

NET
POUR
50c

Kayes, French Sudan – Sept 4, 1894

Registered Military Concession Rate With a Request for a Return Receipt

- Total Rate of 50c
 - 15c Military Concession Rate
 - 25c Registration
 - 10c Request for Return Receipt
- Manuscript endorsement and signature
- Manuscript ***accusé de réception***
- Packet Line J military transit
- Group Type stamps of Senegal used
- Combination Group Type and Dubois Type franking



Corps d'occupation du Soudan
Le Pharmacien de la marine
H. Beaumard

France

no. 105



Monsieur Marce
Receveur des Domaines
Annemasse



(Savoie)



Segou - Small Village Use

Registered Military Concession Rate

- Registered Military Concession Rate of 40c = 15c postage + 25c registration
- Use of single 40c French Sudan Group Type stamp
- Posted from the small village of SEGOU along the Niger River
- Transit via Packet Line K which traveled from South America



Caps expéditionnaire du Soudan

Le Capitaine
Marty

N^o 4



4

Madame E. Bouland

10 rue d'Orléans

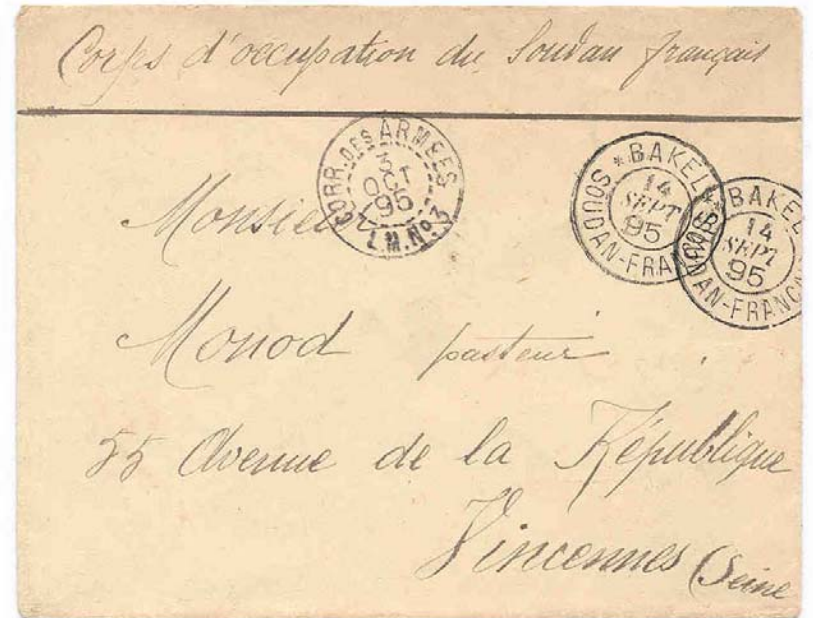
Chez M^{re} Bernand
9511 rue de Valmonville (Seine)
E. V.



Pour Monsieur Roger Bouland

Military Franchise Mail

- Mail was free for soldiers in combat – extensive combat in the Sudan at this time
- Manuscript authorization and commander's signature required to validate franchise
- Earliest letters from new offices are generally franchise mail
- Franchise letter from Bakel at northeastern end of Senegal – office originally was under the French Sudan, but transferred to Senegal in 1896
- Validation on reverse



Corps d'occupation du Soudan français

Monsieur



Monod pasteur

rue de la République
Vincennes (Seine)



Use of French Military Franchise Stamps

Sikasso - August 6, 1904 (Small Village)

- In 1901 France created Military Franchise stamps by overprinting existing 15c French stamps **F.M.**
- Each soldier was provided with two stamps a month to prepay two letters home
- **Only one stamp could be used per letter for up to 15g weight**
- Additional weight levels and registration had to be prepaid with regular postage stamps
- Second weight military letter from Sikasso prepaid with one **F.M.** stamp; a 15c Group Type stamp for the second weight level and a 25c Group Type stamp for registration





Madame

Madame et Monsieur Frantz Canisiat
8 Rue Servians 8

Lyon



Lyon
Rhône

inst. Inspection
66

Earliest Recorded Camel Mail

Tombouctou to Alger

- Only Camel Mail franked with Group Type stamps
- Manuscript endorsement: ***(Voie Sahara) par Caravan***
- Tombouctou – June 20, 1902
- Timmimoun (Algeria entry point for caravans) – Jan 23, 1903
- Arrival in Alger – Feb 11, 1903
- Sahara transit time: 7+ months!





Avis de Réception

Bobo-Dioulasso, Sudan Français

- *Avis de Réception* – Return Receipt
- Used for registered and declared value letters
- Cost 10c: Until 1898 the 10c was included in postage; after 1898 the 10c was put on the *Avis*
- Posted Bobo-Dioulasso (small village) on Feb 15, 1901 for a registered letter to Lille, France
- Two examples recorded

Capitaine Bachelon

REPUBLICQUE FRANÇAISE
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES ET DES TELEGRAPHES.

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

d'un (1) *lettre* { valeur déclarée } enregistré, sous le n° *268* et adressé à
M *Colle*, à (2) *Lille*, le (3) *15 février* 1901

Le soussigné déclare qu'un (4) *lettre* { valeur déclarée } à l'adresse
susmentionnée et provenant de (4) *BOBO-DIOULASSO*
SUDAN FRANÇAIS
a été dûment livré le *13 avril 1901*

Timbre du bureau distributeur. Signature du Chef du bureau distributeur : *93*

(1) Lettre, boîte, objet.
(2) En cas de réexpédition, indiquer le lieu primitif de destination.
(3) Date du dépôt d'après le timbre du bureau d'origine.
(4) Nom du bureau d'origine (d'après l'indication complète du timbre à date) suivi de celui du département ou du pays.

Nota. — Cet avis { dans le régime intérieur comme correspondance } par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine
doit être envoyé { dans le régime international sous enveloppe n° 289, } de l'objet qu'il concerne.
recommandé d'office

NOTA. — Cet avis doit être envoyé { dans le régime intérieur comme correspondance ordinaire, sous enveloppe n° 818..... } par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.
 { dans le régime international sous enveloppe n° 289, recommandé d'office..... }

ADMINIST

The Gaoua Bisects of March 1908

- Shortage of 10c stamps on March 2, 1908 in Gaoua
- Local Postmaster announces in the presence of Colonial residents that he is authorizing use of bisects of 20c Group Type stamp until new supplies arrive
- First Day of use
- Not recorded in any catalogs, but the most genuine bisects of the period from any of the Colonies
- Note datestamp reflecting current political entity: **H^T SENEGAL ET NIGER** in lieu of **SUDAN FRANÇAIS**





Monsieur le Lieutenant Albert

Co. Rég. 1. Infanterie

Nîmes



First Day of Use – March 2, 1908

Gaoua Bisects of March 1908

- One of the military officers present knew the dealer in Paris named Arthur Maury
- Sent a registered letter employing a bisect and a 25c stamp to Maury
- Letter gave the story behind the creation of the bisects which was published in Maury house journal
- Note: Datestamp now shows **H^T SENEGAL ET NIGER** instead of **SOUDAN FRANÇAIS**



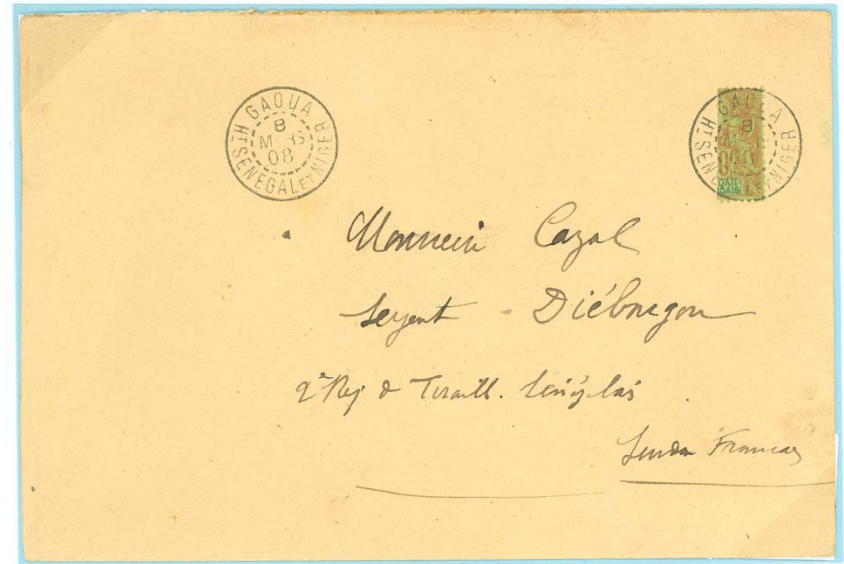
Registered Letter to Maury

March 2, 1908



The Gaoua Bisepts of March 1908

- The shortage of 10c stamps lasted until March 30, 1908
 - Last recorded bisect
- To maximize the ability to produce bisepts, vertical bisepts were used as of March 8th
- Diagonal bisepts produced only one bisect per stamp, as the second half had no colony name or value or part thereof
- Local letter used within the Sudan posted March 8, 1908





Monsieur Cazal
Seyant - Diébougou
2^e Reg & Tirail. Sénégalais

Linda France

Niamey to Casablanca, Morocco

- **Use of Senegambia & Niger Group Type Stamps**
 - Plus a 10c Faidherbe issue
- Registered overseas rate of 1.00F
- Triple weight registered letter – Morocco was NOT in the French Community in 1908
- Cover part of an established correspondence to the military general in Morocco: General d'Amade



Maroc . via Marseille et oran.

recommandée -

188 **R** Monsieur le Général d'Amade,
Commandant le Corps Expéditionnaire

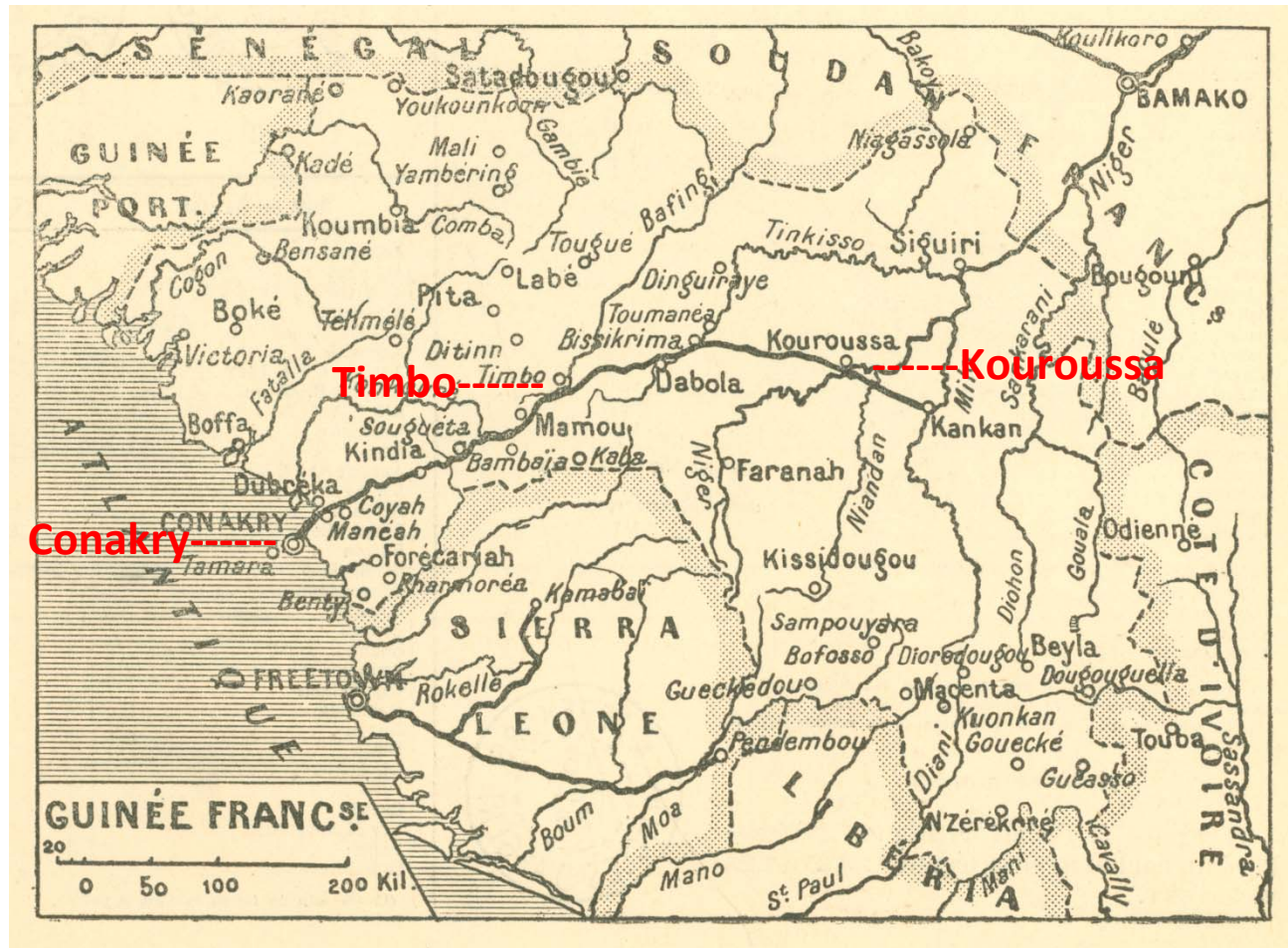


Casablanca



In Morocco
with General D'Amade
Propriété Particulière

FRENCH GUINEA



French Guinea

- Area contested by French, British and Germans in late 19th century
- French establish control in 1885 – 1886 period
- Region initially called *Etablissements des Rivières du Sud*, and administered by Senegal
- In 1892 portions of southwestern French Sudan added to the colony, renamed French Guinea and received its Group Type stamps
- Capital and principal commercial center at Conakry

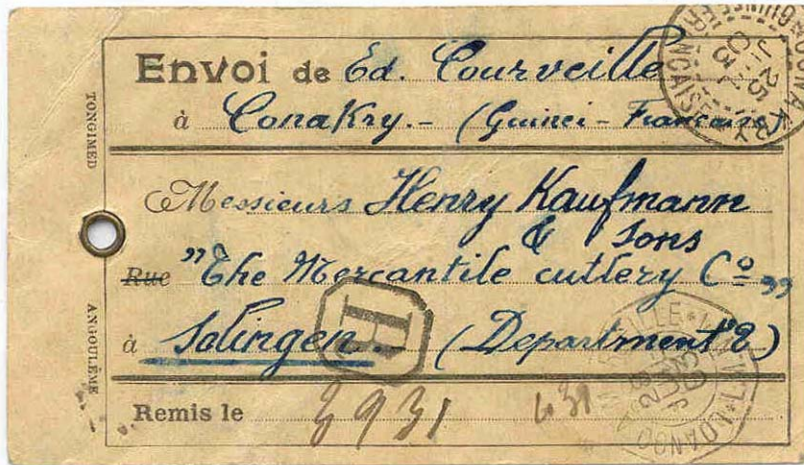
Military Concession Rate of 15c



Only recorded military concession rate from French Guinea
Posted Conakry in 1897

Registered Parcel Tag

(Normally Kept by the PO's – Extremely Rare)



Posted Conakry July 25, 1903
Arrived Solingen, Germany
August 11, 1903
Three examples recorded in
overall collection of 2500 covers



Perfin Precursor?

(No Group Type Perfins Recorded)

- Triple weight registered letter (3 x 10c + 25C = 55c) from a French Guinea mining company
- Posted from the small village of Kouroussa in 1913
- Mixed franking of Group Type and Faidherbe issues
- End of Group Type era—replaced by new issues of stamps
- Ex Stone





Group Type stamps bear a light overprint: **MINES ???**, possibly applied to prevent private use by company's personnel
With the creation of new issues the Group Type Era typically ends around World War I



**OBOCK, REUNION
AND FRENCH INDIA
AND THE
GROUP TYPE ERA**



de timbres poste affranchissement en chiffres-taxes pour cause d'insuffisance

571



Valeur déclarée Mille cinq cents francs (1.500.)

Monsieur Giraud,
Lieutenant d'Infanterie de Marine



CHARGÉ

St Denis.