

Raoul Lesgor

Holmes, New York

Tel. Ulysses 5-7708

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Specialist In The Postage Stamps of
FRANCE

French Colonies General Issues

Dear Jan,

Now you got me behind my last barricade. I read that the cover was mailed, excused, cancelled on Oct 4th in Dakar, and back stamped in Bordeaux on Oct 15th. But I feel that it did no postal duty, because in the case that it did, it should have a dated mark on the front, along with the PAQUBOT Griffé, which could have been applied by a postal employee who had the cover cancelled in Dakar, carried it to the ship himself, applied the postmark, had it back-stamped by a friend in Bordeaux and there you are. The same as the famed "Richelieu" air Mail covers, which have cost so much in ink, which were duly cancelled in New York by a cooperative postal employee, put in an envelope, sent air mail to a postal ~~man~~ clerk in Dakar, who took the letter out, and cancelled it on arrival. Thus creating a situation which has not yet been understood by the owners of the two known covers. Prestidigitation is the French word for it. There is no limit to what can be done with the help of a couple postal employees. Myself, I did in the early 20's when the rate was 2 cents per letter, sent 100 covers to customers, each bearing half of a four cents stamp, each duly cancelled and all having done postal duty. This has been since forbidden. Last time I looked, these were listed @ \$5.00 each, or more. This does not mean that your cover is a fake, but putting a value to it, a problem.

Now that I have unveiled the extent of my tricky nature, I have to admit that I do not know what penalty envelopes are. I look forward to reading your article and learn about, because they seem very interesting, and I hope that you astonish every body. People are too compacent, and should be jerked once in a while.

Regarding the Sowers, I hope that you give me the first refusal. I prefer, for my part to purchase for cash. Much simpler and satisfactory. As far as the Sower that I put together, some very off beat material, not only did I write them up in the forthcoming F \$ C Philate but I will exhibit part of them at the Interpex, with my usual \$5.00 contribution for a frame. And I believe that I have finally convince Bob Stone, and it was a hard fight, that I like to see my tripe published as I have written it, in my inimitable kitchen english.

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I cut out the lower ~~bottom~~ of my original letter because it was sillier than usual. I was talking about my own troubles, but we all have them, and why should I inflict mine on any one.

Love to both of youse RL

The other day, on TV, in a program of W W I, titled "Tipperary and all that Jazz" the narrator, who should have done some research, talked about the songs of the French troops and others. The French songs he selected were "Aupres de ma blonde" and "La Madelon" which no self-respecting combat troop would have liked to be caught dead singing. He also named what he called "La Chanson de Craonne". Then he was closer to the truth, except for the name which was his brain child. Practically every sector had its own verses, ~~some of them~~ none very pretty, all tough and full of despair. He also identified this song with the 1917 mutinies, which were spontaneous, and no occasions for songs of any kind. I wrote to him of course, to ask him why he did not do a bit of research instead, if only out of respect for the million and a half French soldiers killed. He should have been with us when we marched away from the front, the only occasions for songs, and he would have learned the facts of life.

*Like I said, I was going to
tear the letter and write another,
which would have been just as stupid.
So here goes.*