

# France & Colonies Philatelist



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## THE COLONIAL ISSUES OF THE VICHY GOVERNMENT AND THE FREE FRENCH FORCES-1940-44

BY EDMOND QUEYROY

Little has been written about the colonial issues of the Vichy Government and those of the Free French Forces that appeared between the years of 1940-44. Mr. Queyroy, who was in constant touch with the postmasters of each French Colony during this period, corrects much misinformation and supplies us with many little-known facts concerning these interesting stamps.



Fig. 1.

### THE ISSUES OF THE VICHY GOVERNMENT

The Petain stamps, first of the Vichy colonial issues (Fig. 1), appeared in 1941. Two values, the 1f green and the 2.50 blue were printed in Paris for 24 colonies. Contrary to the catalogs, some of them were used in the different colonies of French West Africa, French Guinea, Niger, Sudan, Ivory Coast, Dahomey and Mauretania. Togo is excepted. Senegal, which received by error Petain sets meant for Indo-China, is also excepted. These sets were held until the end of 1945 and then returned to Paris. In 1946, the French Government, once again a republic, overprinted the stamps R.F. on the head of Petain. They were then sent to Indo-China for use. The first day sale was on July 15th and the stamps were withdrawn from sale on August 10th of the same year. 400,000 of the 10cts green were sent from Paris and 147,000 were sold. 200,000 of the 25 cts blue were

sent from Paris and 105,000 were sold. The remaining stock was destroyed.

None of the Petain stamps issued for the other colonies ever left Paris. All sales were made from there and none, of course, exist cancelled.

Next came the "Defense of Empire" set, also issued in 1941. There were three stamps for each of the 24 colonies, a total of 72 values. None of these ever left Paris either and absolutely no cancelled specimens exist.

In 1942 the "Secours National" stamps were issued. 15,000 were printed for each of the eight AOF colonies - 32 values in all. These stamps were on sale in their respective colonial post offices and promise to be very good items. Used stamps are far better than mint copies.

During that same year "Secours National" was overprinted on stamps of Madagascar. All, however, were sold in Paris.

Following this came the "P.E.F.Q.I." or "Protection de l'Enfance Indigene Quinzaine Imperiale" issue. There were 95,000 sets printed with a total of 83 values. Only seven of the colonies ever received them. They were Senegal, Ivory Coast, French Guinea, Dahomey, Sudan, Mauretania and Niger. No other stamps of this issue are found used. Topicalists will find a special attraction in this issue, since the stamps depict dogs, oxen, boats, lighthouses, maps, natives, doctors, nurses, etc.

An airmail set (Fig. 2), was issued in 1942 for eight of the AOF colonies. They were: Senegal, Ivory Coast, Niger, Dahomey, Sudan, French Guinea, Maure-



Fig. 2

tania and Togo. There were 64 stamps, all sold at Paris. The eight values of each colony consisted of 50c, 1f, 2f, 3f, 5f, 10f, 20f, and 50f stamps. Contrary to the catalogs, no stamps from the 50c to 20f values were ever delivered to a single colony. However, late in 1945, the remaining copies of the 50f were sent to the eight colonies to relieve a shortage of high value denominations. Thus, only the 50f may be found on cover. Some values from the 20f are sometimes found on the market in used condition, but these are either by complaisance or are one of the numerous fake cancellations that exist. I possess quite a number of them

Jumping to 1944, a semi-postal issue was prepared. This was accomplished by overprinting the 1f and 2.50f Petain with "Oeuvres Coloniales" for each colony except Inini and Kwangchowan which used the stamps of French Guiana and Indo-China respectively. There were 48 stamps in all, two for each of the 24 colonies. None ever left Paris and were only sold there.

Among the airmail sets issued by the Vichy Government we may also mention: French Equatorial Africa - Scott type AP1 and AP2 issued in the following values; 1.50, 2, 2.50, 3.75, 4.50, 5, 6.50, 8.50, 10, 10.75, 20 and 50c-Cameroons, 1943-4, Scott type AP9, 10, 11 in the following values; 25 and 50c, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 12, 20 and 50f. - French Guiana, 1942, Scott type AP1 & V4 in the 50c and 50f values. - Indo China, Scott AP1 in the 5c, 10c, 11c, 15c, 20c, 36c, 37c, 60c, 66c, 67c, 69c, \$1., \$2., \$5. and \$10 values. - Madagascar, Scott AP1 - Map, 1942/4 in the 50c, 90c, 1.25, 1.50, 2, 3.65, 4, 4.50, 5, 8, 8.50, 10, 12.50, 16, 20 and 50f values. - New Caledonia 1942/4, Scott type AP1 in the 64c, 4.50, 5, 9, 10, 20 and 50f values. - French Oceania, 1944, Scott type AP1 in the 5, 10, 20 and 50f values. - Reunion, 1942 Scott AP3-4 in 50c, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20 and 50f. All these issues never left Paris and were sold only there. No used stamps exist.



Fig. 3.

Before leaving the issues of the Vichy Government we must mention the postage due set of Togo (mask design) issued in 1941 - Scott J22 - 31 in 5c to 3f values. None were ever sent to the colony and it is surprising to see this set listed as used in the Scott catalog.

#### THE FREE FRENCH ISSUES

Many of the stamps bearing the "France Libre" overprint are extremely scarce, especially in used condition. Some of the most desirable are listed below:

Cameroons, the 5c - Scott 258. Only 26950 were issued, the 20c - Scott 260a - 14,800 issued, 261a, 30c only 15,000 issued, 277, 5f (native in pirogue) 15,00 issued, 278a, 10f (pirogue) 8500 issued, 279a (pirogue) 20f, 5,000 issued.

Also from the Cameroons is the semi-postal set issued in 1940, overprinted "Oeuvres De Guerre / + 2 frs." They went on sale, Oct. 21st of that year and only 10,000 sets were available. The 1.25, 1.75 and 2f Pont des Lianes stamps were used for overprinting and were surcharged 2, 3 and 5f respectively. These sets are much scarcer used than mint. A variety with the "S" in Oeuvres reversed, exists.

That same year saw the Cameroons also surcharging four of the 1939 waterfall variety with an additional value and the word "SPITFIRE." The 25, 45, 60 and 70c were surcharged "+5f." This issue is extremely scarce. Only 1,000 sets exist mint and about 3,000 were cancelled two months after the day of the Spitfire at the post office at Douala, accounting for the entire issue of 4,000 sets.

The two N.Y. World Fair stamps of 1939 were surcharged by the Cameroons in 1941. The overprint read "SPITFIRE 10fr / General de Gaulle." This set is better used than mint. Only stamps which have parafin in the gum are genuine. All those with very shiny gum are not genuine. These stamps were kept in the colony for years between parafin sheets to preserve them. The high humidity and the terrific heat acted to merge gum and parafin.

The Cameroons issued a third semi-postal set in 1941, again using stocks of the 1939 N.Y. World Fair issue for the overprints. This set was also given a surcharge of 10f. The overprint read, "+10f/AMBULANCE/LAQUINTINIE." The stamps were sold for the benefit of the Free French to enable them to buy ambulances for the army. 10,000 sets were put on sale, June 13, 1941. They are good both mint and used.

No other semi-postals were issued until 1943 when five stamps of the regular 1933-40 issue were overprinted "VALMY" plus a 100f surcharge to raise money for the Free French Government, although ostensibly the issue commemorated the famous battle. The five stamps in the set were the 1.25 pont des lianes, the 1.25 elephant, the 1.25 World Fair 1939 the 1.50 elephant and the 2.25 World Fair, 1937. These stamps, because of the smallness of the issue, should continue to rise in value.

To be continued

# THE FRENCH CONGO DEFINITIVES Conclusion

W. J. CONNELLY

The French Congo issued stamps for a scant 15 years, yet its definitive issue, 1900–1906, provides a most interesting area of study.

Fig. 1



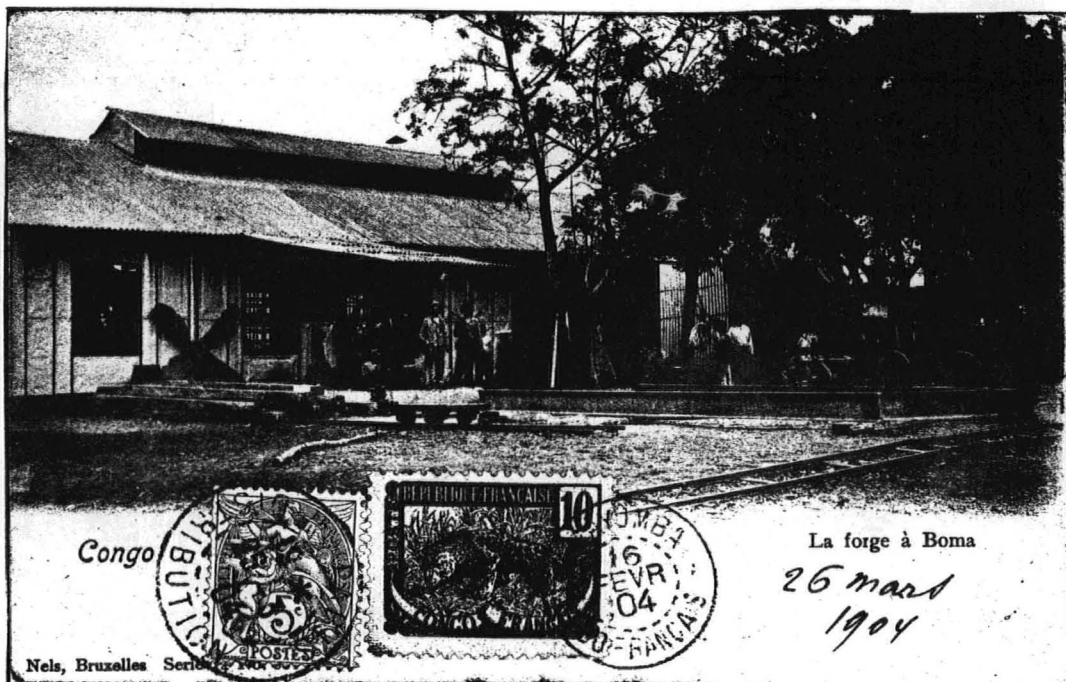
For the most part, postal usage of the Definitives was concentrated in the low values. (1 centimes through 15 centimes) The intermediate values (20 through 75 centimes) and the Franc values are to be infrequently found, on cover. In Fig. 1, a 'News of Death' Cover with three higher value stamps is shown.

An interesting card is shown in Figure 2, on which a 10 centimes French Congo stamp is coupled with a 5 centimes stamp of France. The 5c stamp of France

was affixed to the card in Paris to indicate the fact that there was 5c postage due.

Aside from the errors previously noted in earlier sections of this article, the 30c revalued to 5c is the scarcest stamp in the Definitive issue. Less than 2500 stamps were sold and a high percentage of these were not postally used. It is interesting to note that officially ALL the stamps that had been revalued, were not to be sold over the counter but rather affixed to the item being

Fig. 2







# THE SENEGAL COASTAL MAILBOAT 1886-95

By Robert G. Stone

Our thanks to the American Philatelic Congress for allowing us to reprint this interesting tidbit from their justly famed, "Congress Year Book."



(Photo by DeVoss)

Examine the map of West Africa; note how the the swampy coast from Senegal south to Sierra Leone is indented with many marked bays and estuaries into which sizable rivers empty. During the 19th century many isolated trading posts were established near the mouths of these rivers, which were then the only means of easy travel to the interior. The regular steamers from Europe called only at larger ports such as St. Louis and Freetown; some intermediate ports might get occasional calls from ocean vessels, but generally they had to depend on small and irregular coastal sloops, launches, or steamers. Likewise, few of these stations had post offices before the 1890's, if then. To serve the stations and post offices along this coast the colonial authorities of Senegal subsidized a regular mailboat (aviso postal) starting about October 1886 (according to Langlois and Bourselet) between St. Louis and Freetown, stopping at Dakar, Foundiougne, Bathurst (Gambia), Carabane, Bolama (Portuguese Guinea), and perhaps other places enroute.

This boat was supplied with a special circular dated postmark device to apply to loose letters deposited on board the boat, particularly at points where there was no post office. The first type of mark so used is inscribed in serified capitals between two concentric circles "A PS R / SENEGAL" and date in three lines in the center; it is known with dates in 1888 only. In January 1889 a new type of postmark was introduced reading in larger non-serified capitals "AVISO-POSTAL / SENEGAL", and date in three lines in the center; it is

reported with dates to about 1895. The abbreviation "A PS R" presumably stands for "Aviso Postal Service Rivières." Both marks, the first type especially, are very scarce on detached stamps of French Colonies, Senegal, or French Guinea, and very rare on cover. I have seen several covers of the second type but only the one illustrated here of the first type.

The boat may have been supplied also with French colonial or Senegal adhesive stamps and postal stationery to sell; on the other hand the planters and traders along the coast away from post offices may have had to import them from the nearest post office. In the 1885-95 period the only post offices of Senegal on the coast north of Guinea were (in order, north to south): St. Louis, Dakar, Goree, Rufisque, Joal, Nianing, Foundiougne, Carabane, and Ziguinchor. In French Guinea (then known as Rivières du Sud) the boat could have stopped at the post offices of Victoria, Boffa, Dubreka, Conakry, and Bentley. Note that there were more post offices along the coast than mailboat stops listed by Langlois and Bourselet and mentioned in our first paragraph. Perhaps because of landing difficulties some of these places were not accessible to the boat.

An interesting question is whether the aviso provided the same kind of service to those places where it called in Gambia, Portuguese Guinea, and Sierra Leone as to those of French territory. We do not know of evidence on this, but at least it may be presumed that the mails addressed from French territory to places in non-French territory were dropped off at the appropriate stops. Also,



# FRENCH AND RELATED PHILATELIC DUBIETIES

JAN KINDLER

One of the great classics of phantom philately, the issue of Sedang, is the most famous bogus baby with a Frenchman for a father.

## THE KINGDOM OF SEDANG



Marie David de Mayrena, engineer and officer, served successively in the Dragoons, the Spahis and, during the Franco-Prussian War, as a captain in the Corps de Guides.

His civilian life was marred by a shady bankruptcy, but his excellent war record earned him a government commission to the Far East. At this point, his story becomes garbled, but it is known that, in the course of his travels, he wandered up into that area of western Laos occupied by the complex of tribes known as the Sedang.

An amateur minerologist, de Mayrena spotted what he thought were rich deposits of various ores and, on his return to Paris, he managed to have himself subsidized to locate the source of the Mekong, a river which traverses the Sedang country.

Some versions of the story suggest that he had no official sanction for the expedition and that, in fact, he had never returned to Paris at all. Whatever the truth may be, our hero did undertake the trek with a small party. In the course of it, he stumbled on an epidemic (unspecified) among the natives and applied the contents of his medicine chest to such good effect that the grateful tribesmen acclaimed him as the great white medicine man.

Much flattered by the title and perhaps a shade carried away by his own importance, the amateur medicine man pushed his luck and obtained the hand of a local princess, the only daughter of a powerful tribal leader. The ceremony performed, de Mayrena emerged from the jungle to trumpet the news that his marriage — and something he called an election — had elevated him to the position of Chief of Chiefs or, as he translated the distinction, King of Sedang.

His return to France was strewn with roses. Bedecked in a resplendent outfit of his own design (it was even more flamboyant, if that's possible, than the contemporary French Uniforms of the day) the new king became the toast of Paris. After the manner of his kind, he issued decrees, distributed decorations, and created orders of mobility which he was pleased to bestow on those who furnished his royal treasury.

In 1888, three years after he had first turned his face to the East, he published an official order, dated July 9, creating a postal service, and he followed this with another, on August 24, authorizing an issue of stamps. The latter did not, however, appear until June 6, 1889. Copies of the stamp, which are all of the design illustrated above, were sent to the member nations of the U.P.U. — along with a request that the recipients supply his own government of Sedang with an equal number of stamps of their issues — current as well as those of previous validity. This bit of foresight suggests a slick operator at work rather than the sincere, self-deluded megalomaniac de Mayrena has so often been made out to be.

The swindle worked for awhile and many a set of the Sedangs, consisting of seven values, were sold. Ultimately, however, it was this postal speculation that blew the sovereignty of Sedang into oblivion. Collectors were paying around \$2.50 for the set (the equivalent of some \$15.00 in our day) began to demand some confirmation of their validity. Doubts were raised about the entire enterprise. Merchants who had extended their credit to the monarch began to demand payment from the adventurer. Would-be-rulers who have taken delivery on 100 uniforms for what are essentially non-existent troops rarely expect to pay for them even if, as is seldom the case, they are in a position to do so, Marie I. King of Sedang, did not and was not. After a fast shuffle, during which his stamps began to appear with cancellations, he cashed in his robes and crown at the state pawnshop and skipped town.

Having disposed of his young queen in favor of a more advantageous union with a well-to-do-Frenchwoman, he could not return to his kingdom. In any case, it had meanwhile been occupied by French troops. Indeed, when he arrived in Indo-China, the authorities would not even allow him to land. The word having been spread around, he was met with the same cold shoulder wherever he attempted to set foot, but in time, he washed up in Java. There he managed, with a final flash of personality, to acquire a small retinue remarkable only for its preponderance of females.

De Mayrena died in 1890, but no one knows for certain how or where. Some say he passed on in Malaya; others name an island in the Red Sea. He is thought to have been poisoned, to have committed suicide, to have been bitten by a cobra.

Whatever road he took to his demise, all that is left of him now is his fanciful story and his issue of

stamps. The last was once fairly common due, it is supposed, to the printers who, having been left with it and the unpaid bills, liquidated the one to liquidate the others.

I say printers, in the plural, because, for the collector, the story is not quite over. There exist two types of the Sedangs which, though superficially identical, have some minor, but quite distinctive differences. These have been detailed by H. F. Rooke in "The Cinderella Philatelist" for April, 1961. Both printings belong to the same period. The suggestion is that they came from at least two different plants — one of them, perhaps, that of a counterfeiter — but the question remains unsolved. As with all bogus issues, much remains to be learned about the Sedangs. Mr. Rooke, for instance, had no sooner declared that he had never seen a multiple larger than a block of four (of either type) than the present writer acquired a block of nine of the 1 Moi value ("Moi," incidentally, is the generic local name for the people of the Sedang region).

The stamps of Sedang, once the culls of collections, have zoomed back to favor among the lovers of fantasies. It would perhaps astonish, and no doubt please, the erstwhile king to learn that his inventions are currently quoted on the American market as \$2.00 a copy — that's \$14.00 the set or just about, in point of value, what he was getting for them in his heyday. Philately is a curious enthusiasm and the old adventurer may yet find himself justified.

### SENEGAL MAIL BOAT — Contd.

undoubtedly mail prepaid from non-French to French territory was delivered. But what about mail put on board at stops in non-French territory which did not have post offices — would it be accepted and would the boat accept prepayment in foreign stamps? If foreign stamps were affixed, would the aviso cancel them with its postmark?

Illustrated herewith is a 10c postcard of the Dubois Type of French Colonies general issue (1885) written by a German planter or trader on the Rio Nunez, which enters the northern part of the French Guinea coast, to his supplier in Prague. The message is signed at "Rio Nunez, Senegal (sic), 28. XII. '88" (the region belonged to the Senegal administration until 1889), and the boat postmark is dated two days later, 30 Dec. There is a Dakar backstamp of 4 Jan. '89. Since two days elapsed between writing and postmarking, one might speculate that the sender lived some distance up or down river from the boat stop and forwarded his card thence by private conveyance. The nearest stop of the mailboat was probably Victoria, which is at the head of the estuary of the Rio Nunez. However, Victoria had been a post office since 1886 (the only one on Rio Nunez) and had a postmark; if the postcard were mailed there, it should have received the Victoria postmark. On the other hand, perhaps the mailboat stopped at other points on the Rio Nunez besides Victoria, or the sender mailed it at dock at Victoria.

## MEMBERS APPEALS

**Want and exchange notices only; members only; no charge; one or two insertions only. Those who reply will please offer only what is asked for.**

**WANTED:** French postage dues on cover or with unusual cancels from Scott No. J1 to J45A. Also millesime pairs or coins dates blacks of the postage dues, Scott J46 to J79. Submit with net prices or will exchange for 19th or 20th century France. A.P. Merrick, 7204 SE 32 Ave., Portland, Ore. (Member 743)

**EXCHANGE:** Better France such as Scott #1, 7, 37, 39 mint, 89 mint, 241, C17 mint for similar such as 2, 16, 226, 254. Otto Hoeffler, 7017 SE 35th Ave., Portland 2, Ore. (Member 156)

**WANTED:** Unusual cancellations on early France, Will buy or give 20th Century or some 19th Century in exchange. Glenn Karseboom, 119 Cutler St., Grand Rapids 7, Mich. (Member 397)

**AM INTERESTED** in obtaining material of the Merson type, its use in the colonies, shade varieties, overprints, etc. A.L. Lindgren, 194 Eggleston Ave., Elmhurst, Ill. (Member 779)

### R. C. WILLIAMS AUTHORS LIMITED EDITION ON MONOCO — ITS HISTORY AND ITS STAMPS

Col. R. C. Williams, Member #661 has spent over three years producing a comprehensive study, "The Principality of Monaco — Its History and Its Stamps."

In 8½ x 11 manuscript form and neatly post bound and containing several hundred pages, the book covers the history of Monaco from the days of the barbarians. It includes governmental and philatelic history, the Grimaldi family tree, maps and a chapter on the principal issues.

The material was put in its present manuscript form with the intent that it be published sometime in the future as a hard cover book. However Mr. Williams has about 80 copies left of the manuscript and would make them available at the cost of running off the copies. (We saw a copy and they are an excellent job, neat and well bound. WJC)

If you are a specialist of Monaco, you might find it worth while to get in touch with Col. Williams 603 Baltzell Ave., Fort Benning, Georgia.

### SENEGAL MAIL BOAT — Contd.

#### REFERENCE

M. Langlois and V. Bourselet: "Les Obliterations des Bureaux de Poste des Colonies Francaises," 2nd. Ed. (Afrique Occidentale Francaise only), Paris, 1937, pp. 22-25, 41-44.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

To Sept. 1, 1962

### NEW MEMBERS WELCOME:

- 861 Morgan, Joseph P. Jr., 321 Robin St., Dunkirk, N.Y.  
(France, Cols, FDC)
- 862 Morris, Joseph P., 14 Gay St., Apt. 1, N.Y. 14, N.Y.  
(Algeria)
- 863 Cooper, Janet Mrs., 19903 Longbrook, Cleveland 28,  
Ohio (Cancellations on French Classics)
- 864 Greenshields, Milton, 8548 Bennett Ave., Fontana,  
Calif. (Used Postal Stationary on Cols, etc.)

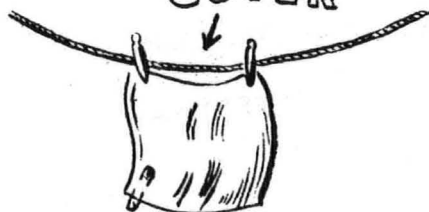
### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 29 Schilling, W. H. Jr. to 5712 Schaefer Rd., Minneapolis 24, Minn.
- 197 Gordon, Robert S. to Box 145, Northfield, Vt.
- 200 Thivierge, J. A. H. to P.O. Box 324, Woodside 77, N.Y.
- 364 Neidorf, Charles to 1580 E. 22 St., Brooklyn 10, N.Y.
- 385 Kennedy, A. M. Jr. to 2930 S. Park Rd., Bethel Park, Penna.
- 435 Oakes, Frank E. to 721 Blanchard Ave., Flint 3, Mich.
- 468 White, Martin M. to 7137 Booth, Prairie Village, Kansas
- 533 Jones, Maj. Wm. G. Jr., 56 Red Cloud Rd., Fort Rucker, Alabama
- 557 Fairchild, Ed to 111 Hacienda Drive, Arcadia, Calif.
- 620 Jodry, Richard L. to 933 Blue Lake Circle, Richardson, Tex.
- 698 Kuhn, W. E. to P.O. Box 617, Fishkill, N.Y.
- 772 Barie, Michael J. to Box 1445, Detroit 31, Mich.
- 785 Martin, Irving to c/o U. S. Embassy, APO or, San Francisco, Calif.
- 789 Menard, Jean Paul to 2125 Cuvillier St., Montreal, P. Q. Canada
- 811 Casentini, Ronald to 63 Mateo Ave., Daly City, Calif.
- 812 Freeman, Herbert J. Mrs. to 7538 West Norton Ave., Hollywood, Calif.
- 814 Kopf, Irving to 1801 Clydesdale Place, N.W. Washington 9, D.C.
- 839 Travis, Mildred L. to Rt 2, Box 130, Zillah, Washington

### REINSTATEMENT:

- 262 Silberstein, Milton L. 1708½ Houston Blvd., South Houston, Texas

FIRST DAY  
COVER



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### MEETINGS AT THE COLLECTORS CLUB

Our regular meetings, held at the Collectors Club, on the first Tuesday of the month (except July and August) should be attended by more of our non-resident members. We have heard from a number of out-of-town members who, after visiting New York, say: "Oh...I forgot, I could have come to the meeting!"

Consistently, we have had interesting and authoritative speakers and supplementary exhibits for their talks which sometimes occupy as many as ten frames.

Why not plan now, on your next visit to New York, to keep the first Tuesday evening of the month free to attend the Society's monthly meeting.

As examples of the programs in the last three months: At the April Meeting, Messrs. Queyroy, Bretagne and Kindler sat as an expert "panel" and conducted a question and answer session for and with the members. At the May meeting, Mr. Paul Olsen presented an interesting and well prepared discussion on the 1853 issue of France. In June, Dr. R. H. Schrady showed and discussed his interesting and comprehensive collection of semi-official Airmails of France and the Colonies.

### ANNUAL BANQUET

Closing the 1961-62 activities of the Society was a very successful Banquet at Le Pecheur, in New York City. A number of member guests from out of town attended and it was a pleasant close to another year of France and Colonies philately.

### MEMBERS

The Society continues to grow in a very modest way. This is as it should be. Steady, dedicated collectors are the only ones who will find the Society, the services, the Philatelist of real interest. As the result of our Society Booth at the INTERPEX show, we secured a number of new members and they are indeed welcome.

### NOW THAT THE SUMMER IS OVER

You should start thinking of what you will enter in the "RICH MEMORIAL COMPETITION." This is one of the highlights of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society's activities. Held annually, in December, it is a two-frame competitive exhibit open only to members of the Society. You should begin planning now on entering this important competition in French Philately.

### THANK YOU

I am honored to be returned as President to serve for a third year. We shall continue to work for the Society's best interests. I would like to hear more from our non-resident members of their thinking, their ideas that will serve the Society's best interests. How about it?

Sincerely,

*W. J. Connelly*

President