



France & Colonies Philatelist

Published by the
 FRANCE AND COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC. (N.Y.)

Corresponding Secretary: Gilbert R. Loisel,
 88-11 34th Avenue, Jackson Heights 72, New York

Editor: Robert G. Stone, Route 3, Box 384, Belleville, Illinois 62221

BROKEN FRAMES AND LINES

By Pierre de Lizeray
 (Académie de Philatelie, Paris)

Interrupted frame lines or background lines, etc., on a stamp are usually referred to as "broken" when not part of the engraver's original work. One needs to make careful distinctions here, not only between white and colored broken lines, but equally as to whether they occur in a product of typography or of recess printing.

Colored Lines in Typo.—In typo the ink is passed to the paper by the high or uncut (relief) parts of the plate. If one of these high parts is broken out on the plate the printed line thus affected appears to be interrupted. The expression "broken" is then quite correct.

White Lines in Typo.—The white lines or spaces are given by the hollows or cut-out parts of the plate. If part of a hollow is filled up for some reason or other, the printing shows an interruption of the affected line or space. It is difficult to logically justify calling this a "broken white line" as nothing is really broken on the plate, but rather "filled." In fact, a break within a hollow around its margin or at its bottom would give more white area rather than some added inking. Nevertheless, some dealers, collectors, and writers use the term "broken" for such accidents because it seems more dramatic and interesting that way; but in my opinion the idea of "fillings" is very interesting too.

Note, for example, the numerous POSTES having an "F" instead of an "E" that are found in the inscriptions on one of the plates of the 20c Empire non-laureated. What happened? The explanation is probably that a piece of lead in the die settled in the hollow of the bottom of the "E" (the letters are printed white on a colored background) and remained there for a time while

the die was being used to make transfers in the coin press. As these "F"s are all found in the same portion of the plate we conclude that the transfers (lead matrices for making a plate) were assembled into a form and the plate made very soon after the transfers were struck. This point is not trivial, for it was exactly the opposite in case of the 20c Ceres, where the matrices of which (for four plates of 300) were stamped all at once but put away in a safe for a certain time before being used for some of the plates; thus came about the famous error: two matrices of the 20c accidentally slipped into the matrix assemblage for a plate of 40c, which had to have the "2"s recut to "4"s to correct the mistake (—this explains the Type II of the 40c). It indicates the 40c matrices also were stamped a certain time before use.

So it is better to call the parts of the die or plate that were filled, "filled lines" or "fillings" rather than "broken," because it is the truth and the truthful description explains things.

An interesting question is whether it is metal that fills a hollow of the plate or die (which would remain until retouched) or it is dust, paper or other foreign matter (which would remain until the plate undergoes one of its regular cleanings with brush and solvent). In my opinion mistakes or varieties arising from metal in the plate are always interesting and may be very important, whereas the occasional fillings with foreign matter are purely trifles.

Accidents to White Parts in Recess Printings.—In truth recess (taille-douce) printings have no white lines but only colored lines (except in case of the Penny Black which is a very special situation). What can happen in a white part of the design are colored spots or supplementary lines having no original significance to the design, i.e., obviously "wrong lines." These additions of color may occur when the surface of the plate has been scratched by a hard object, giving a hollow which is filled by the inking and then prints.

Colored Lines on Recess Plates.—Colored lines are given by the hollows on the plate. I recently read a statement that it is incorrect to speak of a "broken line" on a recess plate since any accidental interruption of a printed line comes from a filling by metal of a hollow that carries the ink. Of course a hollow cannot be broken as a ridge can on a typo plate. But actually no one means "breakage on the plate," for the observed interruptions are due to breakage on the roller matrix in relief (the reverse of the plate and die) used as an intermediate step in making the plate. Thus if a ridge on the roller die is broken it leaves a part of a line filled on the plate, because there is nothing to sink into the plate.

So as with interruptions of colored lines on typo, it is proper to call them "breaks" in recess too; but in typo it means breakage on the plate and in recess it means breakage on the roller. Moreover, in typo we must never call the interruption of a white line or space a "breakage"—the only honest name for that is a filled white line.

MORE FRENCH "GAG" PHILATELY

By Jan Kindler

The previous article of this series devoted to quasi-postal jokes, parodies, and satirical take-offs which I brought together under the title of "Gag Philately," appeared in FCP No. 110. Among these products I mentioned the many farcical games played with the Sower design in several French publications of its period. Mr. Stone's happy resurrection of these caricatured fancies, in the December 1964 issue of the Philatelist (for which I, for one, am extremely grateful), reminds me that I have since gathered information on a number of similar creations.

I have, for instance, seen a parody of the Peace and Commerce (Sage) issue in which both figures are female. It was roughly printed in rose-red, and the value, I believe, was five centimes. (I was interrupted while making my notes, and they are incomplete—but female she was.)

The well-documented stamp of Capacua, an imaginary republic in the provinces of Bolivia, first appeared in Paris in 1883, and we have good reason to believe that Paris is where it was made, in five values. Collectors who picked up this prize were miffed to discover, incorporated into the design of the vignette, the numerals "1-4-83", a surprise that had them neatly April-fooled.

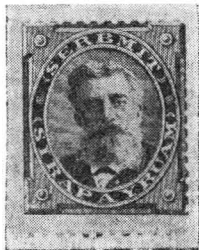


Fig. 1. Maury's label of 1894.

In 1894, the stamp dealer, A. Maury, brought out a label with his portrait framed in the mysterious inscription: "SERBMIT—SIRAP A YRUAM." It puzzled many collectors until it was discovered to be simply a Serutan version of "Timbres—Maury à Paris." Three types of the label exist, both perfed and imperf, and in several colors. Still another version consists of a postal envelope, and these last are known cancelled: "Maury / 6 Bould. Montmartre / 15 Decembre, 1894." In 1897, Maury used these labels in an attempt to sell the French Post Office on the idea of a "double-stamp" to be used on letter-cards in the manner of postal reply-cards. The idea was submitted to the U. P. U. but was rejected.

A few years after this, around 1900, a Parisian perfume house brought out a tricky advertising label inscribed: "Parfumerie des Postes et Télégraphes. Déposé 1,25". An allegorical group completed the masquerade which the post office took seriously enough to interdict. The large remaining stock of the labels was seized and destroyed, the producer prosecuted, and the perfumery closed down.

The stamps of the Empire of Sahara, created about this time by Jacques Lebaudy, were not, I imagine, intended as a joke. But they strike me so much as such that I think they deserve at least a mention in this survey.

In the period immediately following, while the Sower was being kidded, several "Droits de la Femme" labels appeared as a defiant answer to Mouchon's "Droits de l'Homme" design. They may, therefore, be considered a satirical retort in the general form of a postage stamp (which they make no pretence to be) but neither they nor their cause was intended to be amusing.

Nothing further that I know of appeared in this line until after the war, during which thousands of military and patriotic labels and frames took up the slack. In 1923, however, were marketed the stamps of the Republic of Montmartre. These appeared in four designs and values: a pigeon (5c green); a hydrophobic cow (10c red); a postillion (15c bistre); and a muse (25c blue). The stamps were printed in sheets of 20 (5x4) with an inscription on the bottom selvaige: "Foire aux Croûtes, 1923". They reappeared at the fair in the following year but with the numerals of value blanked out with surcharges of different colors, as I understand—though I have not seen them in this form.

Other varieties, with the numerals missing, are also said to exist.

Another hiatus in our voyage transports us to 1942. In June of that year was prepared, by the underground at Nice, a parody of the 1-franc-50 Pétain profile. In my previous article on this subject, I mentioned the well-known British propaganda take-off of this stamp design, one in which a portrait of Laval has been introduced into the background. On the one we now consider, the Pétain effigy has been replaced with a similar profile-portrait of De Gaulle, wearing a kepi. The engraving was made by Robert Thirin who, in February of 1943, was captured by the Gestapo and tortured to death. The stamps he had created were printed in blocks of nine and disseminated as resistance intensifiers. The tragic circumstances surrounding their production hardly fits into this chronicle, but they have their appropriate place in the bitter satire of war-time.

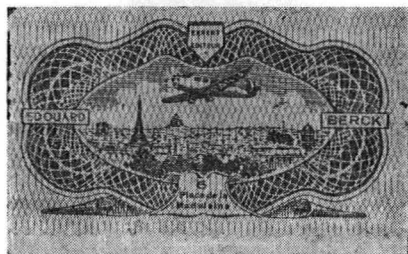


Fig. 2. Ed. Berck's advertising label imitating 50 Fr. airmail of 1936.

Not long after that conflict had ended, the Parisian stamp dealer, Ed. Berck, brought out an advertising label that copies, almost to perfection, the fifty-franc airmail of 1936. The differences, which must be looked for, are these: at the top, the "RF" in the shield has been replaced by the words "expert/editeur". In the two side spandrels, the name of the merchant has been substituted for "Poste Aérienne". And at the bottom, instead of the value, the address of the business has been inserted.

I cannot close this account without the mention of a bit of waggery practiced by our own Raoul Lesgor on the cover of the 26th edition of his price list 1961-1962). It pictures a cancelled millésime pair of the 10 centimes Cameo Sower, in full color. The date of the cancel, a legitimate one, is April 20, 1909. The numeral of the millésime, however, is "5". Since the stamp in question did not exist in 1905, the numeral can only stand for 1915. (It is, as it happens, the "leaning 5" variety of that year.) The 1909 cancellation is therefore impossible. When I called this to the attention of the irrepressible Raoul, all he said was: "Ah! You caught that, did you?" No further explanation have I ever managed to get out of him, even when I offered to buy the item—if it existed. But it did not exist; it was only an inside joke, another in a growing list of philatelic foolery.

POST OFFICES OF MAURITANIA, 1906-1941

By Robert S. Gordon

So far as I am aware, there are no philatelic monographs on Mauritania. The only published sources of information on its stamps are the standard catalogs. The only reference work that deals with its post offices, "Les Obliterations des Bureaux de Poste des Colonies Françaises" by Langlois and Boursset, appeared in 1927, and is long out of print. There was a partial revision

of this, dealing with French West Africa only, by the same authors, published in 1937.

The information on the post offices of Mauritania, by MM. Langlois and Bourselet, was apparently obtained almost exclusively from the postmarks seen by them. To that extent, then, their work is incomplete. It may be of interest to use official information to supplement their publications, and to carry it through the year 1941. It was on January 1, 1942 (decree of October 23, 1941) that French West Africa was merged into one postal administration.

There follows, then, an alphabetical listing of the post offices (and postal agencies) existing in Mauritania, from the establishment of a separate postal administration on July 1, 1906 (the order was dated July 3, 1906, at Goree, Senegal) until that separate postal administration ceased to exist at the end of 1941.

AGUIERT was occupied by French forces February 17, 1905, and a postal agency opened July 1, 1906. It closed some time in 1909.

AKJOUJT. Although a French military post existed here for a few months in 1908 (under the name "Ajoucht"), no post office existed until February 2, 1931. It still exists (1962). Note that a fraudulent postmark worded "AKJOUCHT" can be found, bearing dates at least as early as 1918. It has been seen on the charity stamps of 1915-18.

ALEG was one of the original postal agencies, opened on July 1, 1906; it became a full-fledged post office by an order dated July 25, 1907. The office is still in existence.

ATAR, first occupied by French troops January 9, 1909, obtained its post office on October 11, 1913. This office still operates.

BOGHÉ, on the Senegal River, came under French occupation in December 1903. This was one of the two full post offices originally opened under postal administration of Mauritania, on July 1, 1906. Because of its river location, Boghé has always been one of the more important places in Mauritania.

BOUTILIMIT, occupied in August 1904, has had a postal agency from 1906. It became a full post office soon after 1906.

CHINGUETTI became a French military post April 23, 1909. A postal agency was opened here on October 11, 1913; it became a post office some twenty years later.

FORT-GOURAUD was occupied by French forces May 11, 1933, when the military post of "la Koedia d'Idjil" was established. The post was renamed Fort-Gouraud by an order dated November 21, 1933; and a postal agency under the latter name was opened officially May 1, 1934. It is believed the actual opening took place some weeks later.

GUIMI, occupied February 15, 1905, received a postal agency in July 1906. The agency closed in December 1911; the military post was abandoned soon after.

KAËDI, on the north (right) bank of the Senegal River, was an early French post, occupied July 19, 1864. A Senegal post office (spelled Kayedi) opened here in 1890 or 1891; and this office was transferred to the jurisdiction of the postal administration of Mauritania on July 1, 1906.

KHROUFA came under French occupation early in 1903. Its postal agency opened for business in 1906; notice of the closing of the agency was published on November 2, 1907.

A fraudulent cancellation reading "MAURITANIE / KRONFA" between small double circles, can be found. It is always dated "2 OCT 06".

KIFFA, then in Upper Senegal & Niger, was occupied by the French in 1906. An Upper Senegal & Niger post office opened here on January 1, 1910; closed for a short period in late 1910; and reopened in 1911. By a decree of

April 13, 1913, the boundary between Mauritania and Upper Senegal & Niger was revised, to put Kiffa inside Mauritania.

MAL was occupied by the French in 1904. The postal agency, opened July 1, 1906, was closed according to a notice published October 19, 1907.

M'BOUT, first occupied by French forces on May 9, 1904, was one of the original postal agencies opened in 1906. The agency closed December 31, 1932, and reopened in 1941.

MEDERDRA, occupied in early 1907, received a postal agency in 1909. It has been in continuous operation thereafter.

MOUDJERIA is another of the original postal agencies. It opened for business (nominally, at least) on July 1, 1906; and became a full post office a few years later.

NOUACKCHOTT had a French military post from December 1903, and a postal agency from 1906. Both military post and postal agency closed in mid-1912. The postal agency reopened by the order dated September 25, 1929; the name now became "NOUAKCHOTT". (It is the capitol of the present Republic of Mauritania.)

PORT-ÉTIENNE (ex "Poste du Levrier") is Mauritania's only sea port. Its post office has existed since 1907/08.

POSTE DU LEVRIER was the wording on the postmark used at Cansado from July 1906. The name of the settlement was changed officially to "Port-Etienne" on August 15, 1907; the postmark was changed soon after.

REGBA, occupied by the French in 1904, is not mentioned in the works by Langlois and Bourselet. It was one of the original postal agencies opened in July 1906. The military post here was closed by order of May 18, 1907; the postal agency closed by order published November 2, 1907.

ROSSO is a post office opened originally in Senegal on the south side of the Senegal River in 1922. On February 1, 1926, it was moved across the river into Mauritania, and has functioned there ever since.

SAINT-LOUIS is not in Mauritania. A decree of August 24, 1914, authorized the sale of stamps of Mauritania in Saint-Louis, and they can thereafter be found properly used from this Senegal city (up to 1942). This sale was authorized because the government offices of Mauritania were located in Saint-Louis at the time.

SAINT-LOUIS N'DARTOUT is a suburb of Saint-Louis where those government offices of Mauritania were located. It possessed a branch post office only from June 16, 1926, to December 22, 1927; and stamps of Mauritania can be found with this postmark for that period.

SÉLIBABY, a French Military post as early as 1894, received a postal agency in 1906. The agency closed in 1929, and reopened July 1, 1937.

SOUET-EL-MA. A French military post was established here late in 1902 or early in 1903. The postal agency, opened 1906, was closed by an order published November 2, 1907.

TAMCHAKETT had a military post from 1926 to 1937; but its first postal agency existed only from February 1933 to the end of 1934. (The agency reopened August 16, 1945.)

TIDJIKDJA, first occupied by the French on April 2, 1905, received a postal agency July 1, 1906. It closed in 1909, and reopened in 1910. Since the 1918-20 period, the name has been "TIDJIKJA" in its postmarks.

Stamps of Mauritania are occasionally found cancelled at places in Senegal other than Saint-Louis. This is usually through inadvertence. However, the Governor of French West Africa, by a 1912 decree, permitted the acceptance of stamps of any adjoining colony when a traveller crossing a colonial boundary deposited his mail in the next post office he encountered. Legitimate examples of this usage are rarely found.

SOME STRANGE AND OFF-BEAT CANCELLATIONS ON TWENTIETH CENTURY FRANCE

By Raoul Lesgor

My interest in the 20th Century cancellations is of recent origin. I have been, of course, conscious for many years of the diversity and complexity of this very large field of research. But even what are considered normal cancellations are known in so many forms and texts that it appears nearly impossible to separate the wheat from the chaff and establish a base for a permanent (and I use this word advisedly) classification of the cancels, obliterations, "annulations," etc. This is made more difficult by the fact that there is no clean-cut line of demarcation between the late 19th and 20th centuries usage, not only for cancellations but also for stamps.

Philately is not, nor could it ever be, an exact science. Too many unpredictable enter into the manufacture, distribution, and usage of postage stamps, and "praised be Allah" for that. Human failings, malfunctioning of machines, as well as outside events and accidents are responsible for hitherto unreported varieties, shades, or postmarks. New theories about their occurrence will pop up, upset the well-known apple cart, and prove once more that in stamps any accepted truth is relative and temporary.

To cite an example: the glamorous anchor-in-dots cancel. Originally a killer to process letters mailed on board French mail ships, it has been known for some years that it also served, in rare exception, as a regular cancellation for a Paris suburb during the Commune uprising in 1871. It also served extensively as a New-Year cancellation at Paris for some years. And strangest of all, I have it, and have seen it several times, applied on the 2 francs orange postage due, Scotts no. J43 issued in 1910, on a single stamp or on part cover, and on the 2 francs violet, also a postage due, J44, issued in 1926. The explanation of these anomalies has escaped me so far.

Most of the cancellations described in this article are known and have been classified, but I wish to expand on their period or manner of usage, and to present in some cases my own interpretation of some portion of their text, at odds with the accepted version. Others have never been described to my knowledge, and are somewhat off-beat. It took me two years of correspondence to and from France to discover their true identities. They are not fiscal, nor truly postal, but somehow related to the postal service. And they come from a small collection obtained at a small auction outside of Paris. I may add that after many fruitless trials at obtaining information from collectors, the details offered here were passed on to me by Mon. Jean Pothion, the well-known specialist on French postmarks, member of the Académie de Philatélie, who possesses an immense amount of knowledge and is at the same time courteous and cooperative.

To conclude this long preamble, I will state that this is not an essay at classification of all the 20th century cancellations, but merely a few, because it will take many years and many students and writers to establish a catalog, or several catalogs, to do justice to the subject. (See the good beginnings in some recent articles by Dr. J. Goubin in *Bull. Phil. du Midi*, and *L'Echo de Timbrologie*, 1963-65.)

THE NEW-YEAR CANCELLATIONS

The most important single group of cancellations presented here are the so-called New-Year's cancellations, and a very large field it is indeed. It is well known that Frenchmen used to, and I presume still do, send their New-Year greetings by the simple process of enclosing their business or personal

calling card in a small envelope specially sold for this purpose. These are mailed unsealed and carry only one cancel, that on the stamp. No other postmark appears either on the front or back of the cover.

The stamp used on them is generally a 5 centimes, often of the Sage design, Scott's nos. 78, 104, or 105; or a no. 113, the 5c Blanc design, or any combination adding up to 5c. When sealed, a rare occurrence, a 10 centimes was required and the letter was processed in the regular way. The volume of mail was so heavy that, before the widespread use of cancelling machines, extra postmen had to be hired and armed with any cancelling device, some obsolete for many years, that could be found.

The late Mr. De Beaufond, in his catalog of cancellations 1876-1900, lists the 1849 grill as having been used in very rare cases. I have one, which checks with the original as far as dimensions and ink textures are concerned, but on a 10 centimes red #162! Is it a fantasy? I shall treat it as such pending more information. Other early cancels re-activated for the New-Year rush, include the roller of large dots (I have one) and the various lozenges of dots. The mute lozenge (merely an administrative "annulation" not intended for stamps in 1849-52), the hollow lozenge, the lozenge with small numerals in the middle (which is rare), and the lozenge with large numerals, relatively common except when in red or blue. For the sake of accuracy, it should be said that the large numeral in lozenge 5104 is NOT a New-Year cancellation because that killer was still in use in Shanghai in the 1890's.

The Paris stars also play a prominent part in this classification. They can be mute, hollow, and with various numerals in the middle. One rare cancellation is the so-called "cachet de rayon" (district mark) (Fig. 1).

Then we have a large number of various small auxiliary postmarks, the PD or PP in frames, OR or possibly OL in circle, in black, red or blue. And the "facteur"'s (letter carrier's) marks in different-shaped boxes, circles, ovals, triangles, hexagons or octagons. These are mostly numerals which may be the identifying numbers of postal bureaux or routes. The identifying numbers (in roman numerals) of the Paris districts were also put to use, as were many straightline postmarks of Paris and elsewhere, in various forms and texts. Also circular cachets without dates, letters or numbers without frame, combinations of letters and numbers in various-shaped frames, and of course the anchor-in-lozenge of dots (rare only when in color). I will conclude this enumeration by suggesting that a large collection of New-Year's cancellations can be assembled. But unfortunately the late 19th and early 20th century was a period of wanton destruction of documents, and far too many covers were washed away to obtain their stamps for packets. What a tragedy! It is fair to say that it is ten times easier today to find any of the 1849 stamps on cover, than the New Year covers of 1890-1910.

RAILROAD AND SHIP-LETTER CANCELLATIONS, FOREIGN MARKS

The railroad postmarks, "ambulants" or "convoyeurs" (travelling post-offices on trains), come in many forms and in a diversity of texts and types. They are well-known and fully classified. The ones described here are different or odd, for reasons which will be explained. The single capital letters in large octagons, for denoting daytime service (Fig. 2), the round one for denoting night service (Fig. 3), and the wavy circled one for special services (Fig. 4), are not supposed to be found on stamps, but they are occasionally. These are the initials of the "brigades" (teams, or shifts) operating in a railroad postoffice. When on cover, the same initial may be found in the lower part of a dated cachet, as for example "Paris a Troyes / B".

Railroad cancels are numerous and well-known; however, they cannot be fully described in a short article. But the next-mentioned item deserves to

6^{ER}

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig.



Fig. 4

GARE DE MIJOUX — DOUBS

Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

be. It was in use from 1899 to about 1910 on a short line, indeed not more than a shuttle, between a small town, Mijoux in the Doubs Department, and the Swiss border. It served only three stations: "Mijoux" (Fig. 5), which I have on a pair of the 5c #159, "Gare de Verrières de Joux/Doubs" which I also have, and "Gare des Hopitaux-Jougne/Doubs"—the last two in two lines and smaller letters. Why was such a small line, barely a few miles long, considered worthy of a special postmark?

While we are near the Swiss border, may I present a postmark which had me puzzled for over ten years. I have it on several values of the Sower and Pasteur types. My first reaction was to associate it with the "Cours d'Instruction" (postal employees schools) for which stamps were overprinted ANNULE. It consists of two concentric circles with the word ANNULE in block letters in the middle (Fig. 6). None of the specialists that I contacted in France could explain it to me, until I sent one to Mr. Pothion. It seems that this is a Swiss mark, struck on arrival in Switzerland on letters bearing stamps uncanceled at origin. It is so simple when you know!

Lingering a bit longer upon examples of international postal cooperation, without devoting time to French postoffices in the Near East and Far East countries, we find most interesting the marks of accidental origin. German, Swiss, Italian, Belgian and foreign dated-cachets, applied upon arrival in these countries are well known. Others are less so. The illustration (Fig. 7) of a star in large lozenge of dots is an example. I have it struck on a millésime pair of the 5 centimes, #118. It originated in Madrid, Spain, and is one of several types, but the only one in my possession.

The cancel of Bombay shown in Fig. 8 is common (used ca. 1895-1910) and well known on Indian stamps of course, but seldom seen on foreign stamps, especially of European countries. I have seen it on cover cancelling a French stamp, with the framed Bombay "PAQUEBOT" mark alongside. This was a loose-ship letter from on board a French merchant vessel (without seapost service) put off at Bombay and deposited in the Indian postoffice there, in accordance with UPU regulations for such mail. (Some countries put the PAQUEBOT mark on the stamps and postmark to the side, some the opposite; the term "PAQUEBOT" is specified by UPU for international usage, equivalent to "packetboat" in English.) Similar marks were used at Aden, and could occur on French stamps in the same way.

For reasons which will be apparent later in this paragraph, I wish to include here the very important cancellations which adorn stamps on some French covers having a British destination. The mail traffic between France and England, and vice versa, was always heavy. The British boats regularly crossing the Channel between various French and British ports have for many years carried special boxes for deposit of letters on board, and on arrival at the British port the letters were picked up and stamps cancelled by the British P. O. in the port with a special postmark, an example in Fig. 9. These special marks, which varied somewhat over the years, some being square, some circular, contain at the top the name of the British port of arrival, the word "France" beneath it, and the letters "M B," and date farther below. The most common is Southampton, but it is known also for London, Folkestone, Wolverhampton, the Channel Islands, and others. The Southampton one is scarce but not rare on French stamps. The box service and the marks were inaugurated around 1870 and lasted at least until 1948 (according to L. Lamouroux in FCP #48); I have it as late as 1928. My reason for mentioning them is that French writers describe the letters "MB" as meaning "mobile (or movable) box." I think that is a misconception. They think in French terms, and to them "BM" means "Boite Mobile" or "Boite Maritime." However, if one realizes that the British postal authorities thinking naturally in British

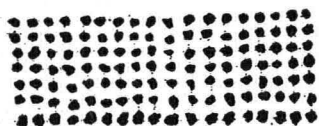


Fig. 15

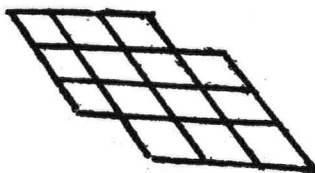


Fig. 16



Fig. 17

Fig. 18



terms and not acquainted with French philatelic terminology, which in this case had not yet even been adopted in 1870, simply meant to describe "he means of transportation, and in all logic "MB" simply abbreviates "mail boat"; by the same reasoning "RP" in British or American cancellations would not mean "Recette Principale." This I say with all due respects to messrs. De Beauford, R. Salles, and others who have published magnificent works on the subject.

To bring an end to this part, I will mention in passing the cancellation "A. R." in a large frame (Fig. 10) which is sometimes found on the stamps to the exclusion of any other mark, and is an official cancel on special notices advising an addressee that an important piece of mail awaits him at the P. O. The other mark (Fig. 11) is a Belgian one, an annulation used by savings banks. How it got on a French stamp, I do not know.

CANCELS OF PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION

We now enter a new field, barely postal, but still related, if only in an off-beat sort of way, with the distribution of mails. The items mentioned here may appear to some as weird, but are very interesting. And who, in these days of first-day covers and cancellations commemorating everything from election of a President to a bicycle race, would dare to cast the first stone? These weird ones, scornfully rejected by the purist, but manna for we who derive so much fun out of collecting (and for the "cinderella" collectors), are difficult to find. Such are the cancellations of the "Agences Privées de Distribution" (private distributing agencies), and herein lies a story.

These agencies, as the name implies, distributed throughout Paris, the prospectuses, pamphlets, and other advertising media for large business firms who considered the regular postal rates too expensive (we have similar enterprizes in U. S.) Then as now, a large part of this advertising matter found its way into the waste basket. Someone had the bright idea of affixing a 1c stamp (1/500th of a dollar) to each envelope. These in turn were cancelled with the mark of each of the concerns involved (Figs. 12-14). This may have saved many a masterpiece of publicity from oblivion (I would not know about that), but these private cancellations are rare on covers or part covers. The ones illustrated here, which I have on the 1c Blanc, #109, represent, in order, the following firms: Nicolas (wines), Dufayel (furniture), and Societé des Charbonnières de Paris (Society of Paris coal dealers). I understand that there are many others, but finding them is the trick.

The last four items we show (Figs. 15-18) are "official," if such blasphemy is permitted. They are the private cancelling devices of inspectors ("surveillants") of the cancelling machines which by 1927-30 had been installed in most if not all postoffices in Paris. Figure 15 can be identified with Bureau 118. For the others it is only a guess. Now a question arises. How many such "surveillants" were there? I do not know. Was one assigned to a district, or to an arrondissement (ward), or one to a single bureau (office)? Again I do not know, but I am trying to find as many as I can, and am digging for more information. Compiling whatever information I could obtain, and using a lot of imagination, I have come to the opinion that after inspecting a cancelling machine the surveillant had to make a report on some official form, sign it, and apply the cancellation on stamps affixed by the bureau to make it official.

Concerning the value of these two private types of cancels, I fear it is merely a sentimental one. The fun of finding them was ample reward, and I will keep them awhile. I am now working on others, and will, I hope, be able to present the results of my researches in some forthcoming issue of the PHILATELIST. And again, thanks to Mon. Jean Pothion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

The P. T. T. has announced it will open in late 1965 or early 1966 an addition to its printing plant on Boulevard Brune to make room for a new heliogravure press which can print stamps in four colors, a hydraulic press that gives a much better quality of impression than the mechanical presses. This addition will make it possible for the APT to print designs of stamps which do not lend themselves to typography nor recess, to print contrasting bright tints in close juxtaposition, and to print at a cost intermediate between that of the other two processes. Heretofore the heliogravure stamps had to be printed by private firms under contract, and were limited to the colonies.

The first flight of the new Air France direct non-stop service Paris-Fort de France (Martinique) by Boeing 707 jets took place 16 Dec. 1964. A special commemorative cachet was used.

The P. T. T. issued 41 stamps during the calendar year 1964. The P. T. T. intends to maintain a stable program, not increasing the number of stamps or the total face from one year to next. In November last the P. T. T. announced the subjects for 26 of the 1965 stamps, 5 of which will be with surtax. Included are two of famous personages, the Journée du Timbre, 2 Christmas and red-cross items, two Europas, 5 in the art series, 5 in the tourist series, and 9 diverse commemoratives. In January they announced 15 more stamps; the raise in postage rates in January will necessitate additional new stamps this year.

On Nov. 5 last the 14th Annual awards of the jury for the Grand Prix de l'Art Philatélique Française were announced. The first prize went to Gandon's La Dame à la Licorne. The Calvin of Cottet was among the top three. The Grand Prix des Territoires D'Outre-Mer was given to the 200fr Pendentif stamp of Comore by Combet. The Grand Prix des 13 Nations of French-

Speaking Africa and Madagascar went to the Venus de Milo of Haute Volta by Betemps-Gautier.

On the occasion of the issue in France of the two Christmas stamps and booklets for the red-cross benefit on December 12 last, the French red cross published a set of 5 first-day cancelled souvenirs with the stamps consisting of two cards and two envelopes and the booklet, sold individually or as a package for 12fr.

The Académie de Philatélie of Paris at its 11 Oct. 1964 meeting elected new officers: Leon Dubus, President; Schatzke and Pannetier as vice-presidents; P. Germain as librarian. The Académie has decided to undertake the compilation and publication of a specialized handbook-catalog of France. It will probably take some time. It is badly needed as the Yvert et Tellier catalog of 1939-40 is far out of date.

We learn with great regret that Mme. E. Freydier has decided to give up publication of *Bulletin Philatelique du Midi* with the January 1965 issue (last number), owing to her recent serious illness. Founded during the War by her husband, BPM was carried on by Mme. Freydier after his death and during the last decade she built it up to a leading position among French periodicals devoted to serious studies in philately. We pay our respects to her for a great and lasting accomplishment. Subscribers to BPM will receive *Le Monde* in its place, and some of the serials and departments will be taken over by *Le Monde des Philatélistes*.

In May last year the Minister of PTT issued an arrêté announcing that the printing of postal stationery to special order of private firms ("timbrage à l'extraordinaire") ceased as of 14 May; the existing stocks of such stationery would continue their franking power till used up (that is, they are not demonetized). This is sad news to the many collectors who have eagerly sought these pieces, which provided some types of vignettes on stationery that would not have existed otherwise.

F. & C. P. S. OFFICIAL

Our President did not write us a formal letter for this issue, but the officers have passed on some news and information. It is reported that we have gained 67 members since last September.

The annual Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibition held on January 5 had seven participants: William Connelly (French Congo), John Ramsey (French stampless covers), Mark W. Martin (paquebot covers of the Mediterranean), Adrien Boutrelle (1870 Alsace-Lorraine issue), Louise Clemenceon (Reunion), Walter Parshall (Monaco proofs), and Eric Spiegel (Fr. Col. general issues). Not all of these were in competition. The first prize went to Marc Martin for his French Paquebot Cancellations of the Mediterranean 1851-66; second award to John P. Ramsey for his Stampless Covers of France; and third to Adrien Boutrelle for his detailed study of the Printing Varieties of the 1870 Alsace-Lorraine Issue. Our felicitations to the winners.

The Interpex International Stamp and Coin Show will have been held probably by the time you read this, March 19-21, at which the Society will

hold a meeting along with many other clubs.

The Secretary has sent out the annual dues statements to all members; he hopes you will not let them languish too long on your desks, and also wishes to call your attention to the request on all the statements for names of potential members.

The annual Spring Dinner is being planned for a Saturday in May, probably the first or second. Anyone interested should get the details later from Eric Spiegel, 300 West 109th St., New York. These are always very informal and enjoyable affairs—as your Editor can testify from the several he has managed to get to.

The regular monthly meeting of the officers for January was postponed till the 26th so the Editor could attend, which he greatly appreciated. All officers attended except Bea Berner who was laid low by one of the bugs which we all fall prey to from time to time. The Editor discussed the editorial policy and problems of the Philatelist. Another subject discussed was the problem of finding speakers for the meetings in New York. The idea was brought up that if members could make colored slides of the pages of their collections, the slides could be loaned with notes for presentation at meetings which the owners would not be able to attend owing to the distance of their residence from New York. Even if the owner can present his own slides it is the most successful way to present material to a group—it is being done more and more at stamp clubs.

The officers would particularly like to call your attention to the facts presented in the "For The Record" column about the PHILATEC sheet.

The next PHILATELIST is planned for issue in June; deadline for copy will be about May 10.

NEW MEMBERS

(As of Feb. 16, 1965)

- 949 CARIS, Sam, 160 W. Montcalm, Detroit, Michigan 48201 (Mint 19th Cent)
- 950 PIRRUNG, Reinhardt C., 19 N. Main St., Box 381, Farmingdale, N. J. (French Colonies)
- 951 SELDIN, Frances, 13500 Layhill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland (French Philately)
- 952 HELM, Jay Wilbur, 808 South 10th Ave., Yakima, Wash. 98902 (France and Colonies 1930 to date)
- 953 MUELLER, Barbara R., 523 E. Linden Drive, Jefferson, Wisconsin (Essays and Proofs)
- 954 FLYNN, William A., Jr., 4447 Morro Drive, Woodland Hills, Calif. (19th Century France and Colonies)
- 955 MENDELSON, Bertram M., 3 Larchfield Avenue, Newton Mearns, Renfrewshire, Scotland (Indo-China, Fr. POs in China, Laos, Cambodia, North and South Viet-Nam and Polynesia)
- 956 STIEFF, Ray A., Box 681, La Junta, Colorado 81050 (France and Colonies—Used)
- 957 HAMILTON, Frank R., 48 Arlington St., Westbury, L. I., N. Y. (France 19th and 20th used, reg. issues, semi-postals, airmails only)
- 958 HAMERSLOUGH, Herbert L., 650 Lemon Ave., Menlo Park, Calif. 94026 (General, France and Colonies)
- 959 HENRIE, Hervé, 1599 Cartier St., City of Jacques Cartier, Prov. of Que., Canada (France, mint only)
- 960 KAHN, Alfred I., 300 East 71st St., New York, N. Y. 10021 (Metropolitan France)
- 961 HIGLEY, Edward W., 35 Chapin St., Canandaigua, N. Y. 14424 (French Singles, Pairs, Plate blocks and strips, Used, and First Day Covers)

- 962 McNASH, James N., M.D., 2805 Cherry Laurel Lane, Atlanta 11, Ga. (France and Offices)
 963 WINTER, Richard F., 2-D Henley Parkway, Manor Heights, Port Deposit, Maryland 21904 (France and Colonies, French Classics)
 964 LEVINE, Harold, 92 Highland Ave., Middletown, New York (General)
 965 CARRIKER, Clyde H., Jr., 3209 E. Cortez St., West Covina, Calif. 91791 (French Polynesia, Tahiti, New Caledonia, Also the Navigation and Commerce Issues of the 37 Fr. Col. and offices, 1890-1904)

RE-INSTATEMENTS

- 909 HEIN, Richard F., 36 El Paso Place, Salinas, Calif. 93900
 895 LARSEN, Frederick N., 1010 Hillcrest Lane, Annandale, Va. 22003
 884 STEELE, John C., Brig. Gen., 270 So. College St., Carlisle, Pa.
 65 MOZIAN, Gregory, 545 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. 10017
 890 ASHENDORF Herbert, 21 Montclair Road, Yonkers 2, New York
 533 JONES, Wm. G., Jr., Lt. Col., 1610 Greenway Drive, Augusta, Ga.
 429 GOLDEN, Maxine, Mrs. R., 5306 Carol St., Skokie, Ill. 60077
 829 ARNOLDS, Larry, 55 Sickles St., New York, N. Y. 10040
 596 BRECartNER, Wm. G., RFD, Hackettstown, New Jersey
 544 BURR, Russell, 778 Valour Road, Winnipeg 10, Manitoba, Canada
 772 BARIE, Michael J., Box 1445, Detroit 31, Michigan
 862 MORRIS, Joseph P., 220 East 12th St., Apt. 1B, New York, N. Y. 10003
 26 BROOKS, Arthur S., RFD 4, Van Wert, Ohio
 477 REICHERT, William E., 1115 Sierra Drive, P. O. Box 985, Riverton, Wyo. 82501

CORRECTION

- 34 MENNINGER, Catherine W., erroneously listed under reinstatements in December issue. We are sorry. Mrs. Menninger is, and always was a full fledged member.

NEW ADDRESSES

- 930 WEJROWSKI, Edward R., Lot B23, 4221 S. 6th St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53221
 555 McKANNA, A. G., 248 Markland Drive, Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada
 471 TEDFORD, Leonilda, Mrs. J. E., 6600 Boulevard East, West New York, New Jersey 07093
 920 MARABELLA, N. J., Capt., Q. M. School, Fort Lee, Virginia
 864 GREENSHIELDS, Milton, 8548 Bennett Ave., Fontana, Calif.
 923 LANCE, Jack, MSgt., HQ 26th Air Division, Box 581, Stewart AFB, New York 12554
 480 SCOTT, Vivian, Col., 9204 Florence Ave., Downey, Calif. 90240
 329 ARNOLDS, Larry, 1 Bennett Ave., New York, N. Y. 10033
 374 RANGLES, Harold J., 3235 40th St. N., St. Petersburg, Fla. 33713
 435 OAKES, Frank E., St. Louis Public Library, 1301 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo. 63103

REMOVED FROM MAILING LIST

- 912 CAJUSTE, Renée, 656 Sutter Ave., Brooklyn 7, N. Y. (Resigned)
 911 MULVANITY, Ed D., RR 4, Winchester, Va. (Moved, left no address)
 557 FAIRCHILD, Edmund, 247 F. Broadway, Laguna Beach, Calif. (Resigned)
 478 WALLS, Clarence W., 2107 S. W. Edgewood Rd., Portland, Ore. (Resigned)

NOTICE

The Corresponding Secretary advises that if you have not paid your dues for 1965, now is the time to do so. Thank you.

Please mail your check or money order to:

Gilbert R. Loisel, 88-11 34th Avenue, Apt. 4G, Jackson Heights, N. Y. 11372

FOR THE RECORD

(This Department is devoted to short notices on recent discoveries of varieties, unusual or little-known items, submitted by correspondents or culled from the recent magazines.)

25.) The PHILATEC Exposition sheet of 8 stamps, Scott #1100, which was described in our #118, p. 11, apparently has turned out to be a good item. We now have the figures on the number of these stamps sold during the 17-day period of the exposition (none were sold after the closing)—1,840,000 stamps or the equivalent of 230,000 sheets of 8, according to word Charles Bretagne has had from Paris. Taking into consideration:—the amount sold as singles as part of the entrance-fee package at the Exposition (well over 100,000), plus the mail orders prior to the opening, requests received from all over the world, the many singles used for FDC and maximum cards, and the strong demand for singles from the "space" topicalists, and the fact that all European album distributors have in their supplementary pages made spaces for a single and a block of four of this stamp, it is generally believed in the trade that the maximum number of sheets of 8 left intact on the market all over the world is hardly over 130,000. Although a few U. S. dealers and collectors bought sheets while attending PHILATEC, most of our dealers and collectors unfortunately refrained from ordering the stamp or sheet from Paris while stock was still available because of the American Philatelic Society's famous "black-blot" column on this stamp in *American Philatelist* last summer. Later when the A. P. S. retracted their "black blot" it was too late, for by then the stocks in Paris had been liquidated. Today this sheet, when available, is selling in Paris close to \$25.00, while only 8 months ago it had a face value of \$6.40. It is regrettable that the APS did not endeavor to obtain the facts from competent sources before publishing their opinion. The single stamp is not so scarce as the sheet but is in demand so that it has already reached over \$2.40 retail and going up fast.

26.) The Indochina Grasset-Type 5c is reported seen in blue instead of green, in a cancelled copy. A peculiar feature of all the Grasset stamps (and proofs), is the presence of two small dots just outside the bottom margin of the stamp—we cannot imagine the reason for them.

27.) There is a report in *Le Monde* for February 1964 (p. 17) of the finding of two uncatalogued varieties for Martinique, consisting of surcharges of "MQE/15c" in the second Scott type for that colony on France #82 the Sage 1fr Type II, and on French Colonies 5c Dubois. We would be inclined to suspect these are part of the clandestine output of a postal employe at Fort de France who made many of the early Martinique surcharges illegally and sent them out to France cancelled and uncanceled—some of the overprints listed in the catalogs are now known to be fraudulent, as result of studies by Dr. Bouvet published in *L'Echo*, 38 Feb., 31 Oct., and 30 Nov. 1963, and 28 Feb. 1964.

28.) In October 1942 for a time the port of Djibouti was blockaded and the mails were handled by a special airmail service, for which several special official cachets were used. One is a single-circle cancellation inscribed "Djibouti Avion—Cote Fse des Somalis—9.10.42", the other a rectangular box 8x18 cm inscribed in two lines separated by triple bars: "Services aériens speciaux / pendant le blocus de Djibouti". How long were these marks in use?

29.) Mon. Pothion, the Paris dealer, advises collectors that for some time now French stamps cancelled with fake lozenges inscribed with the rare abbrev-

iations "P.C." and "G.C." have been put on the market in France, made by altering commoner lozenges.

30.) The new F. M. stamp of France which we mentioned in #119 was printed on 30 July 1964 according to the coin daté, in sheets of 100; it is in 4 colors, dimensions 17x23 mm.

31.) In connection with Jan Kindler's article in this issue on "gag" philately, an item shown us recently by member Edgar Levy may be of interest. He has several miniature sheets of poorly lithographed imperforate ungummed labels designed as if they were modern French stamps. There are six labels per sheet all in the same color, in two rows of three. Three labels are in one design, two of another ("chiffre taxe"), and one of a third. They are inscribed "Republique Francaise" and "Postes," with denominations of 50, 40, or 30c. One design has a winged-victory motif, another a medallion with Marianne head, and the Chiffre Taxe has the value in a circular wreath. These labels were probably made for children or some publicity, and should not mislead anyone to believe they are serious postal essays of some sort.

32.) In a letter from Dr. David Bennett, 3436 Corsa Ave., Bronx, N. Y., he reveals an interesting usage which he has found and is looking for more examples of: Some covers exist apparently, with U. S. stamps of 1918-20 (offset) issue, Scott's nos. 525-536, franked and mailed in France by someone attached to but not a member of the American Expeditionary Forces there, addressed to French concerns or persons and delivered to them having passed through the French mails. Military personnel had free-franking privileges there at that time but associated non-military personnel had to use stamps.

33.) Wm. J. Connelly (better known to many of us as a Congo specialist) recently showed us his extensive collection of the René Caillé issue of French West Africa. Among the interesting things he has discovered from a study of many mint sheets of these stamps is the presence on many of them of one or more very fine straight horizontal lines crossing the sheets, in color of the stamp, and usually extending into the selvages on both sides. In most cases the line is found through the top row. In the Togo sheets it is through the 2nd row. The 90c Dahomey lacks any line; the 90c Mauritania has two lines in the 1st row, and one in the 3rd, also oblique lines. The 90c Soudan has line in 2nd row in some sheets, and one stamp was found with 5 lines crossing the 5th row. The 2fr Guinea has a single line in the 2nd row plus two lines through the 4th row. The 90c Senegal has one in the fifth row. The 2fr Mauritania shows a line on the 3rd, 4th and 5th stamps only of the 3rd row. And there are other variations. It seems incredible that the plates could have become scored with such lines; perhaps there are other explanations.

34.) During World War II, conditions in West Africa were disturbed and the posts became lax or had to tolerate makeshifts. Thus covers are seen from Dakar with Soudan and Niger stamps, and similar vagaries.

35.) Raoul Lesgor tells us of a rare Sower sheet he found about which he has never seen anything in the literature. To understand his deductions about it, we should recall the nature of the dated corners (coin datés) on French stamps. As it is explained in his book "France, 20th Century Specialized," the insertion of the dated corner at the lower right corner of all sheets printed by rotary press indicates the day of printing, not the day of issue, of the particular sheet upon which it is applied. The date is struck automatically twice, for every turn of the cylinder containing two plates. A printing run ("tirage") was usually of 100,000 sheets; after it was completed, all undesirable sheets, those badly printed or smeared or defective for other reason, were taken out and supposedly destroyed. Before being delivered to the Postal Department, a quantity of sheets equal to the number discarded, was replaced in the package

to complete the 100,000 total, a reserve being kept for this purpose. These were serviced through a machine equipped with a comptometer which added a new set of numbers to the right of the already-printed set of numbers, in 5 digits at lower right corner of the sheet. Now for the rare sheet mentioned: In one case a reserve of sheets of the 50c red Sower with lined background (Scott #146) had been printed in a very distinct orange color otherwise used only once and that for a private booklet (Yvert #E11, "Quinzaine Philatelique"). The lone printing in sheets in that very particular color occurred on July 25, 1928 (coin daté: 25.7.28), very possibly, and this is admittedly mere speculation on Mr. Lesgor's part, at the same time when the above-mentioned booklet was prepared. These sheets also carry the double set of five numerals. He believes this must be a very rare dated corner in this color. He purchased one sheet several years ago, but could not find another one during his recent trip to Paris, though he did find a small quantity of stamps in the orange color but no dated corner.

36.) We have recently seen two examples of a French Oceania provisional not listed in Yvert specialized nor mentioned in the literature. These are two printed-matter wrappers mailed at Papeete to local addresses postmarked Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, 1932, without stamps but marked with a purple handstamp "PORT PAYE" in serified capitals, 21 mm x 3 1/4 mm. A similar provisional handstamp is mentioned in Yvert as having been used at Papeete in October 1921 when 2c stamps for printed matter were temporarily out of stock. We surmise something of the same sort occurred in Oct. 1932.

37.) Indochina postage-due stamps of the 1927 issue are sometimes seen cancelled with a large triangular cachet inscribed with a large numeral "5" and "cents" and "Taxe Minimum". A piece we have with a pair of the 1c and single of 3c is so cancelled; we suppose that the mark was meant to indicate that by some regulation the least postage due that could be charged was 5c, for some particular kind of mail.

38.) With regard to French stamps surcharged "Specimen" which we commented on in item 23 of For The Record, Mr. Lesgor reminds us that certain 20th Century stamps thus overprinted were used in the "Cours D'Instruction" of the PTT (training school) in place of the stamps marked "ANNULES" formerly used in the Cours. We need more information as to whether any French stamps were overprinted "Specimen" for sending to the UPU.

39.) A Reunion cover we have, sent to U. S., and dated 28 Aug. 1944, bears an interesting cachet, a rectangle 94 x 20 mm, the right half inscribed "NE PARLEZ/PAS/DE NAVIRES" and the left part containing a picture of a sinking ship and the letters "S . . . O . . . S", obviously a slogan to urge people not to talk loosely about ship movements they have seen or know about in order not to give enemy spies information. We presume it was put on the letter by the censor office at St. Denis, Reunion, since it is struck in the same purple ink as the circular "A/1" censor's cachet used there and also on the cover.

40.) Nearly all the covers with French Austral and Antarctic Territories stamps that one sees are philatelic. A colleague of ours (not a stamp collector) who spent the summer 1963-64 with the French Antarctic Expedition base at Terre Adélie, showed us a number of covers cancelled while he was there which bear in addition to the regular Expedition cachets a cachet of the Danish ship "Thala Dan" which carried the expedition party out from France and back that year. He states that because of the construction activities and shortage of space at the base during the summer, the letters were serviced on board boat, which remained anchored off shore during the period. The cachet is a rectangle of 53x32 mm inscribed in Danish: "Fransk Antarctic Expedition / Le Havre-Hobart-Terre Adélie / og retur Okt. 63 til Marts 64 / Om Bord

Danske Polar Skidet / Thala Dan / Fra Rederiet J. Lauritzen". The "Thala Dan" is one of a fleet of special boats built by the Danes to service various Antarctic expeditions of several countries under contracts. The names of all the boats end in "Dan".

41.) With reference to the item 24 of For The Record, on stamps liable to damage by soaking, our ever resourceful Raoul Lesgor writes: "For the last 30 years or more, the first thing I did when confronted with the first issue of Diego Suarez handstamped in violet, was to run a wet finger (with saliva of course) over the surcharge. If it ran, it was no good (fake). The same may apply to the early Nossi Be surcharges. The modern aniline inks used for fake surcharges do not soak through the stamp—thus on early Tahiti surcharges (of which there are more fakes than good ones) one can look at the stamp and see how much the ink has penetrated through—it should show neat and oily if the surcharge is good."

42.) In my book on the "French Colonies General Issues" (Collectors Club, 1961), I indicated that several of the Sage stamps were known in mint gutter pairs or blocks, the existence of which was hard to explain because all the sheets were supposed to have been cut into panes at Paris before shipping to the post offices of the colonies. When only mint gutter pieces of this sort were thought to exist there was the suspicion that they might be proofs or printer's waste. However, we have now acquired a gutter pair of the 4c Sage green properly cancelled in 1878 at Saigon, so it would appear that one or more whole sheets managed to get into the colonial postoffices in Cochinchina.—R. G. S.

43.) It is a surprising fact that practically none of the French colonies postal stationery is known with private "corner card" imprints of firms or individuals. We do not know whether it was forbidden by regulation or not, but there is one exception listed in the A.C.E.P. catalogue—this is Cameroun envelope #3, the 15c panther type of Middle Congo surcharged "Cameroun / Occupation Francaise", issued 1918. It is found with printed corner of Moukarim Freres, Douala, Cameroun. We have seen several copies commercially used, and have one cancelled on the French mail packet Ligne L in 1919. Some other colonial stationery can be found with handstamped corner imprints of firms or persons, especially banks, but they are rare.—R. G. S.

44.) Our correspondent R. Lesgor sometimes passes on to us some curious tidbits along with his more specialized fare. He writes: "In 1943, the British Oceanographic Society parachuted a large number of post cards over the Atlantic Ocean near the Western European shores, with a view to studying the amount of fuel oils dumped or leaked from ships, which pollutes the beaches. Four hundred thirty-seven of these cards were fished out along the French shores from the Belgian to the Spanish borders. These postcards (probably made of some special material) were, according to request printed on them, returned to England with prepaid postage or postage due. They are now very rare, and I noticed that Mr. Pothion (in Paris) offered one in his recent circular, for 2000 NF (\$400). They are terribly interesting since they were not intended, as too often the case, as a philatelic stunt." Have any of you seen one of them?

45.) By way of continuation of item #1 of For The Record, perhaps most collectors of France and Algeria are unaware that the Marianne and Coq stamps of Algeria 1944 were used in Corsica from March thru April 1944 as an emergency. This we learned from Dr. Joany's very detailed study of this issue which began as a serial in *Le Monde des Phil.* for Nov. 1964.

46.) The catalogs fail to tell us that from 1944 to 1946 the Fezzan was attached to Algeria and used Algerian stamps. The provisional Fezzan over-

prints of 1943 were used under the military occupation and are mostly rare stamps; some of them have been dangerously counterfeited. A very valuable original study of the air mails of 1943 appeared in *The Aerophilatelists Annals* for Jan. and April 1957, by Sebastiao Amaral. He illustrates and lists many varieties, correcting some mistakes in the catalogs, and indicates the proper cancellations, counterfeits, proofs, etc. Scott's does not list these issues, for reasons unknown. We have an interesting cover airmailed from Fezzan during the period when Algerian stamps were used there; the 1.50 fr (Scott #151) stamp is cancelled "Poste Militaire / No. 560 / 16/4/44". In the upper left corner is a cachet in black capitals reading: "Mission Scientifique Francaise/ Du Fezzan/18 Fevrier 23 Avril 1944".

47.) In the article on French Colonies Allegorical Group Type in Number 118, p. 3, it was implied that the reason for the color change of the 5c in 1900 from dark green to light yellow green was because of a desire to comply with the UPU color scheme. A correspondent has reminded us that the real reason was probably merely to follow the similar change which had been made in the French stamps, to meet an objection of the postal employees that the dark green often appeared under certain lighting conditions as blue and was confused with the 15c. This could well have been the reason but the matter is confused by the fact that the French color change was made in 1898 whereas the colonies was in 1900 when the other colonial changes were made.—R. G. S.

48.) Many of the illustrated slogan machine cancels of France and Colonies ("flammes illustrées") are very attractive, but we do not recall any that have the whimsical charm and cuteness of one used in Ivory Coast Republic at Abidjan during 1963. It consists of a reverse ("seal") type impression of a black square in which is left in white a picture of an elephant's head, his trunk upholding a steaming cup of hot coffee; to the side is a four-line inscription reading: "Un plaisir / un réconfort / une détente / Le Café de Cote D'Ivoire." What better ad for Ivory Coast Coffee!

49.) The UPU Convention of June 1878 reduced the rates on letters between many countries to the equivalent of 25c for France and Colonies but this was not ratified by France and colonies until the Décret of March 27, 1879, to become effective on 1 April. In Guadeloupe the local governing council was slow in implementing the change with an Arrêté to make it official for the postal clerks, the Arrêté not being issued until 13 May. However, the postal officials there and the public too knew about the impending change (thru telegraph news from France) by the 1st of April, and many people began during April to put only 25c in stamps on their letters to abroad, which the postoffice obligingly passed with out charging due. We have seen a number of such letters, which Dubus, Marchant, and Pannetier mention in their book "La Guadeloupe" as "amusing pieces."

50.) Our member Irving Kopf comments on item 9 in For The Record about the postal forgeries of Petain type Indo China, as follows: "I have also a forgery of the 6c red. It seems to have the characteristics of the 10c and 40c forgeries. It is a legitimately used copy, postmark Hanoi."

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, AND CATALOGS

"Oblitérations du Maroc." By G. Chapier and J. Serres. 2nd Supplement, 1964.

- 3.25 fr. postpaid. L'Echangiste Universelle, Bischwiller (B.-R.). (The original work plus the 2 Supplements can also be purchased there for 10.50 fr pp.)
- "La Cote des Coins Datés et des Millésimes 1964-65." Publ. by Soc. de Collectionneurs de Coin Datés et le Millésimes, 40 Rue Marcheron, Vanves (Seine), price?
- "Les Timbres de la Libération." Librairie Sinfonia, 68 Ave. des Champs-Élysées, Paris 8 (to appear in Dec. 1964). Price?
- "L'Index Philatélique de France et Variétés 1894-1964—Europa." By M. Peemans, 56 rue de Foubourg-Montmartre, Paris 9. 3 fr. (priced cat.)
- "Catalogue Georges Monteaux France Spécialisé." Georges Monteaux, 6 Square de l'Opera Louis-Jouvet, Paris. 60pp. 2.50fr. (7th ed. of cat.)
- "Catalogue des Envelopes 1er Jour." By J. Farcigny, Courbevoie, Seine. 7th ed. 1964. 4fr.
- "La Poste de L'Ancienne France des Origines a 1791." By Louis Lenain. 1965, 740 pp. Subscriptions taken till 31 March at price of 135fr. pp.; thereafter 150fr. The author, 13 Chemin des Semestres, Arles (B.-Rh.)
- "Catalogue des Marques at Cachets d'Entrée en France 1800-1881." By G. Noel, 1964. 68pp. Illustr. The author, 28 rue Guillaume-Tell, Paris 17. (Entry marks for mail coming into France from Europe.)
- "Timbres de France, Vol. VIII." By P. de Lizeray et al. The author, 14 rue de Poitiers, Paris 7. 1964, 8fr. pp.
- "Catalogue des Oblitérations des Anciens Timbres de France 1849 a 1876: Petits chiffres, gros chiffres, étoiles, bur. complémentaires, gares, ambulants, armées, etc." By H. Blot. 3rd ed. 1964. Publ. by Cérés, 25 rue du Louvre, Paris 1. 12.50 fr. (a priced cat.)
- "Catalogue de l'Yonne." By J. Dreano. March 1965. 25fr. For sale by Paul Combes et fils, 60 rue Paradis, Marseille 6.
- "Les Timbres de l'Ile de France." By Blazy et Gauvin. For sale by L'Echangiste Universelle, Bischwiller (B.-R.), BP 34. 3Fr.
- "Bureaux Spéciaux et Franchises." By J. Legendre. 1963. For sale by P. Combes et fils, 60 Rue Paradis, Marseilles, 6. 30Fr.
- "Les Timbres de Fantaisie et Non-Officiels." By G. Chapier. 1963. The author, 117 Rue Pierre-Corneille, Lyon 3. 16Fr.
- "Promenade a Travers la France Illustrée par les Timbres." By P. Boye. Tome I, Brochure Nr. 56, Le Monde des Philatélistes, 14 Rue du Helder, Paris 9. 6Fr plus post. (.90); Tome II Brochure 68, Le Monde, 6fr plus post. .90c. (1963-64).
- "Timbres de France, Vol. VIII." By P. de Lizeray, et al. 112 pp. 1965. The author, 14 Rue de Poitiers, Paris 7. 8fr. pp.
- "Les Timbres Français de 1962." By R. Duxin. Brochure Nr. 58. Le Monde des Philatélistes, 14 Rue du Helder, Paris 9. 4fr plus p. (The stamps of 1962 as described in the official PTT notices.)
- "Les Premières Timbres Français Gravés en Taille-Douce." By R. Joany. Brochure Nr. 63, Le Monde des Philatélistes, 14 Rue du Helder, Paris 9. 6fr plus p. 1964.
- "Price List of Philatelic Literature" (1964 ed.) By Fritz Billig. 168-39 Highland Ave., Jamaica 32, N. Y. 50c.
- "An Introduction to the Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks of France from 1849-1876." By Wilfred Bentley. Vol. I, parts 1 and 2 (more to come). 1964. London, France and Cols. Phil. Soc.

CURRENT JOURNAL ARTICLES

This department will list for certain journals and serial publications the recent articles on French and French Colonial philately which in our opinion are substantial contributions and likely to be useful to our readers. Serial articles (coming out in instalments) will be listed separately, and only when they begin and end. Several of the journals have regular features of a catalog nature, or devoted to special topics contributed by specialist societies, such as listings of new issues, new special postmarks, coin datés, booklets, first-day covers, flammes, maximum cards, topicals, questions and answers, news, etc.—these we will not list. Likewise some journals are filled with many valuable very short notes or records of discovery of individual items, varieties, etc.—there are unfortunately too many of these to list (*Feuilles Marcophile* is particularly rich with this sort of material). Most of the French magazines covered here will be obtained by the FCPS on exchange or subscription and deposited in the Collectors Club library in New York, where they may be consulted by members and, once bound, borrowed by those who are members of the Collectors Club; also photostatic copies of articles can be obtained at cost from the CC librarian by CC members or thru FCPS officers in New York who are CC members.

A descriptive evaluation of the magazines will be published later.

SERIAL ARTICLES

(Note: Some of these will be reprinted in booklet form later and announced under "New Books, Pamphlets, and Catalogs.")

L'Echo de la Timbrologie Amiens: (thru Feb. 1965):—

Maincent: "Histoire du ballon 'George Sand,'" started #1309-;

Fromaigeat: "Un peu du nouveau sur les Bordeaux," started #1296-;

LeBland: "Les carnets de timbres en fonction de leur emploi," #1323-;

De la Ferté: "La collection maximaphile," #1325 (May 1964)-;

Goubin: "La Daquin," #1327-;

De Lizeray: "Types véritables et variétés de cases," #1329-1330;

Boblique: "Initiation aux entiers postaux," #1330-;

Maincent: "Histoire de 'La Bretagne' aerostat du Siege," #1332-;

De Lizeray: "Le decouverte de types inconnus," #1332-;

Carnevalé-Mauzan: "La Poste et les camps de prisonniers de guerre allemands, austro-hongrois, et turcs, en territoire Français pendant la première guerre mondiale," #1332-;

Goubin: "La clé des hexagones," #1332-.

Bulletin Philatelique du Midi (Montpellier) (Thru Jan. 1965, when BPM ceased publication):—

Barat: "Surcharges d'Algérie," started in 1963;

DeLizeray: "La revue des études philatéliques" (original articles), started in 1963-;

Goubin: "Les empreintes de timbres a date sur les correspondances ordinaires de 1900 a nos jours," started 1963; ended June and Dec. 1964;

Fromaigeat: "Histoire des timbres de l'Empire," started 1961-;

Joany: "Nomenclature des timbres-poste de France," started 1960 (several Tomes already reprinted in booklets);

Boblique: "Carnets de timbres-poste Français en typo rotative," Jan-Feb. 1964;

LeClerq de Sainte-Haye: "Les cachets des postes militaires anglaises en France 1914-18," #260 (April)-#264;

- LeClerq de Ste-Haye: "Les cachets de postes militaires americaines en France 1914-18," March '64-Dec.;
- Joany: "Le 50c Femme Fachi," June 1964, Sept. and Nov. '64;
- LeRoy de Boisseaumarie: "Préos—la grande surcharge 'Affranchissements Postes' rotative sur feuilles de 100 rotatives entre 1940 et 1951," started #261-;
- Le Monde Des Philatelistes** (Thru Jan. 1965):—
- LeBland: "Les timbres Francais perforés," began 1962, ended May 1964 (now reprinted in two brochures);
- Wanos: "Le courrier des variétés de France," began 1963- (a cont. dept.);
- Geoffroy: "Oblitérations temporaires," began 1957, continuing department, reprinted each year in brochure);
- Joany: "Les premières timbres Francais gravés en taille-douce," began 1963, ended March 1964;
- Boye: "Promenade a travers la France illustré par les timbres," began 1961-;
- DeLizeray: "Le type Blanc," began June 1963, ended Oct. '64;
- Olivier: "Les estampilles a main avec flamme type Daguin," began 1962, ended Aug. '64;
- Brémard: "les oblitérations mécaniques," began ?- (cont. department);
- Chapier: "Les vignettes de Colis postaux de Paris," began 1963, ended April 1964;
- Muller: "En marge de la philatélie 'L'Alsace-Lorraine," began 1961, ended May 1964;
- Gavault: "Les colis-postaux de France—histoire de leur timbres," began May 1964-;
- Samouel: "Essais officiels d'envelopes et bandes timbrés," began 1963, ended May 1964;
- Rouques: "Les préoblitérés de France (impr. rot.) et leur variétés," began May 1964, June 1964, Jan. 1965-;
- Mignon: "Les carnets de Timbres," cont. department;
- Bath: "Coins datés," cont. department;
- DeLizeray: "Le carnets coq," Nov.-Dec. 1964;
- Joany: "Les 'coq et Marianne' de Alger," Nov. 1964-;
- DeLizeray: "Timbres et Types," Jan. 1965-.

SINGLE ARTICLES

L'Echo de la Timbrologie (thru Feb. 1965):—

- #1322, Feb. '64: Brazier: "Le Caprice de Marianne."
- #1324, April '64: DeBeaufond: "Les marques postales."
- #1325, May '64: DeLizeray: "La typo, planches de 1848 et planches actuelles."
- #1326, June '64: Goubin: "Les cachets a dates de recettes de 1884 avec interieur continu."

Bulletin Philatelique du Midi (thru Jan. 1965, when publ. ceased):—

- #256, Dec. '63: Blanc: "Le type Blanc, impression a plat, notes complémentaires"; Chapier: "La machine a recommander les lettres."
- #257, Jan. '64: DeLizeray: "Le Semeuse avec sol"; Joany: "Nomenclature de T.-P. de France, 1er Période 1849-75, émission VI 1862"; DeLizeray: "Uncoindatiste ne s'y laisserait pas prendre."
- #258, Feb. '64: LeBland: "Les timbres Fr. perforés" (end); DeLizeray "20c Bordeaux Types II and III"; Goubin: "Liste des bureaux auxiliaires créés en vertu du Décret du Avril 1887."
- #259, Mars '64: DeLizeray: "Les re-entry de France"; Rochette: "Les étoiles de Spt. 1864"; Phillipon: "Le 7½c Type Blanc."

#260, April '64: DeLizeray: "Obliterés des roulettes a plat"; LeBland: "Les types des timbres de Gandon"; Rouquès: "A propos des sous-types des 1 et 3c Blanc"; Boblique: "Mariannes de Muller, Essai de Collection."

#261, May '64: DeLizeray: "Du nouveau sur les surcharges rotatives."

#262, June '64: Mignon: "Les nouveaux carnets"; DeLizeray: "Impression des carnets de 8"; DePomyers: "Une gentille Semeuse."

#263, July-Aug. '64: "Blanc: "Nuances des roulettes a plat."

#264, Sept. '64: Goubin: "L'Interdiction des timbres Petain en 1944."

#265, Oct. '64: Aurand: "Les ennemis de vos timbres"; DePomyers: "Après les catalogues."

#267, Dec. '64: Phillipon: "Le 0.25 Marianne de Decaris—feuille de 100 et carnet de 20."

#268 Jan. '65 (last no. published): Blanc: "Le timbrage a l'extraordinaire"; Mignon: "Un essai de carnet inconnu"; Tessier: "Surcharges rotatives preo"; DePomyers: "Des surcharges."

Le Monde Des Philatelistes (thru Feb. 1965):—

Jan. 1964 (#147): Duxin: "Les 41 timbres Fr. de 1963 par leurs auteurs"; Ferrat: "Oblitérations aériennes."

Feb. '64: Louis: "Les deux récents blasons."

March '64: Tristant: "Quelques considerations d'histoire postale sur les timbres-poste colis postaux de la Cote d'Ivoire" (end, began 1963). (Reprinted now in brochure.)

June '64: Rochette: "Apropos du France 5c Empire dentelé vert pale sur bleu 1871"; Duxin: "Vingt-cinq ans de 'postale du nuit'."

July '64: Mignon: "La confection des carnets de 8 de coq."

Dec. '64: Boblique "Les quatres presentations du 0.25 Marianne de Decaris"

Jan. '65: Mignon: "Un essai de carnet rotatif."

Les Feuilles Marcophile:—

No. 159: DePeyrelongue: "Lot et Garonne (Dept. no. 45) Marques Postales et Obliterations" (100pp).

No. 160: Poujol: "Essai sur la Creation de Bureaux de Poste aux Lettres en France au XVIIem Siecle"; Deloste: "Les Vaguemestres d'Étapes."

MEMBERS APPEALS

WANTED: To complete a plating of Scott #45 of France, 20c Type III, Report 2, need positions 1 and 15 as shown on page 68 of Suarnet's "Bleues de France" (latest ed.). Will exchange other positions (2, 6, 7, and 9), or other issues, or buy. Raymond L. Smith, 1228B Douglas Road, Rantoul, Ill. 61866. (Member 756).

WANTED: Stamps on postcard or envelope of the following: Annam "A&T" overprints, Port Lagos, Castellorizo, Diego Suarez, Grand Comore, Mayotte, Moheli, Nossi Be, Ste. Marie de Madagascar as colonies. Will exchange other covers or purchase. Edward Hopps 2246 Medill St., Chicago 47, Ill. (Member 921).

WANTED AND OFFERED IN TRADE: Will "swap" anything I have in excess for items I need to augment my collection. Mint/used all of France, postage, airs, semipostals, (but no modern proofs or imperfs), on Scott or Yvert cat. basis. Col. Vivian N. Scott, 9204 East Florence Ave., Downey, Calif. 90204 (Member 480).