



# France & Colonies Philatelist

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

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## HOW MANY STAMPS HAVE FRANCE AND COLONIES ISSUED?

By David C. Churchman

As a feeble collector of France and Colonies, I have often wondered just how many stamps have been issued by this ever-popular area of collecting. With the aid of a 1965 Scott Catalog, an adding machine and some midnight oil, I compiled the following useless information:

According to Mr. Scott, France and her Colonies had issued 16,892 stamps through the 1965 edition with the following qualifications:

- None of the new independent republics are included.
- Souvenir sheets were counted as one stamp.
- Minor varieties were not counted.
- A reasonable effort was made to check for omitted numbers and the addition of "A" numbers such as Scott No. 126A.

It might be of some interest to note that the fewest stamps issued by any colony is 5 held by Cochin China. Running a close second is 9 by Annam & Tonkin. If those two countries were starting out today, the first set of gorgeous pictorials would doubtless sell for \$8.95 per set and number in the 20's. Both of those countries are now on the "dead" list, of course. The fewest issued by a "live" colony is 30 by the French Austral and Antarctic Territories. Second place is held by the Grand Comorro Islands with 75 stamps. Largest of the "dead" countries is Syria with 856 (Syria is now sort of a part-time member of the UAR and no longer listed with the other French Colonies). Oddly enough, second place in the numerical race in the "dead" countries is French Offices in China with a surprisingly large 700 emissions. For those purists who might argue that this comprised many smaller individual colonies, I shall mention the next two "dead" contenders: French Morocco (545) and Tunisia with 498.

Of those countries still cranking out new issues under the Tri-Color, France of course ranks number one with a total of 1692 stamps of all types. Busy little Lebanon, whose connection with France is rather tenuous, has banged out 927 stamps in its short career to place a solid second. And, as any schoolboy will tell you, the gaudy and often unnecessary wallpaper of Monaco ranks third with 820 stamps.

The list of the remaining Colonies still issuing stamps in the French Empire are as follows:

Andorra (211)	Lebanon (927)
Cambodia (166)	Monaco (820)
France (1692)	New Caledonia (439)
French Polynesia (279)	New Hebrides (144)
French Austral and Antarctic Territories (30)	Reunion (466)
Grand Comorros (75)	St. Pierre & Miquelon (496)
Laos (145)	Somali Coast (398)
	Viet Nam (269)
	Wallis & Fatuna (226)

Admittedly many of these areas have little, if any, direct French control but Scott, for lack of a better area, lumps them under French Colonies.

It might be interesting to note here that of the Scott Specialty Albums for the French Empire, a complete collection of "French Africa" would contain 6650 stamps while the two volumes entitled "France and Colonies" would house 10,242 stamps, the total being the aforementioned 16,892.

Many of the so-called "dead" colonies are still very French but use French stamps, e.g. French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Inini, Martinique, etc. Many of the small fish were eaten by larger ones and ceased to churn out any more postal paper of their own. This list is almost endless from Anjouan to Tahiti. Then of course most of the African Colonies were given their independence in 1960 and we lost such old standbys as Madagascar (423 stamps before independence), French West Africa (139), French Equatorial Africa (303), Senegal (266), Togo (240) and Algeria (446).

Catalog value never ceases to amuse and confound the amateurs among us so just for the fun of it, I made another hasty survey into the rarest of the rare. First place, you'll be tickled to learn, is held by none other than Ivory Coast #20 (\$7000), second place is held by Togo #173 (\$6000) and third is held by Somali Coast #33D (\$3500). Others, cataloging \$2500 or more include: France #8 (\$2800), Tahiti #24 (\$2500), Reunion #1 and 2 (\$2500 each) and Togo #171 (\$2500). It is only fair to add that some of the rarest Togo stamps remain unpriced and many of the minor varieties of France (tete-bêche pairs, etc.) get up as high as \$18,500 per. Nothing to compare with the famous 1c British Guiana, but hardly the sort of thing you'd expect to find in a pound of mission mix.

My next monumental waste of time shall be to find out just what Scott thinks these 16,892 stamps are worth. This report may take a bit longer in the preparation.

## DUBIETIES INVOLVING THE SOWER ISSUES

By Jan Kindler

The Sowers, as France's longest-lived issues based upon one fundamental design, have been subjected to the expected alterations at the hands of those con-men who delight in furnishing collectors with curiosities of private origin.

The most widely disseminated of this bogus Sower material are the im-

perforates, now sanctified by years of catalogue listing. In spite of their very general acceptance, all such imperforate copies are no more than printer's waste, and none were ever issued to the public. They were, instead, smuggled out of the plant, and disposed of by thieves—they were no less than that—to such dealers as were willing to handle the material. By 1911, the outflow of these unauthorized imperforate stamps had grown to such proportions that an investigation was instituted into the matter. Nothing, however, came of the report, and the depredations continued for nearly three decades more. Although such stamps were never validated for postal use, a rare example may occasionally be found on cover, having passed either through the favor or inattention of a clerk. A rumor persists that the 10 centimes red Cameo-Sower was distributed, as an imperforate, for the use of the delegates to the Versailles Congress of 1913, on official stationery and business only. I have examined two such covers, and they seem legitimate in every respect. But I have never seen a copy of a decree authorizing the practice, nor have I ever met or corresponded with anyone who had evidence to confirm it.

The same stamp has also been used, without official sanction, as a bisect. I own a quite non-philatelic example in which two complete copies of the stamp, se-tenant with the right half of a third, were used to pay the 25 centimes rate to Geneva current in 1920. The letter is primly cancelled and back-stamped at arrival, and it incurred no additional charges in postage due as a consequence of the usage. Such covers, however, are excessively rare, and, while they are desirable in the extreme, they belong to the category of postal hocus-pocus.

The postage-due overprint which appeared on this same stamp around 1917, and which is said to have been necessitated by war shortages, is another of those products for which I can find no evidence of authorization in the literature—beyond, of course, its mention. We cannot doubt that it was "used," for a large number of covers exist upon which it performs its expected duty, and a number of others bear the 5 centimes green Sower, of the same issue, doing service in the same circumstances. Most of the latter are dated in the few weeks after the rise in rate for internal postage, and seem, therefore, to exist with some genuine postal purpose. But I have never seen a quotation from any official document that might account for their legitimacy.

During the postal strike of 1909, advantage was taken of the tumultuous state of affairs to cancel French stamps, most of them the common Sowers of the period, with practically every handstamp that could conceivably be put to such use with any semblance of official warranty. Most of these "oblitérations de fortune" are, of course, of private origin, and very few actually carried mail.

Similarly, when the French Army liberated the Alsatian towns of Thann, Wesserling, and Massevaux, in the first months of 1915, local officials resurrected every conceivable device they could, many of them going back to the Second Empire, and even beyond, and these, with patriotic élan, they banged all over the envelopes bearing their correspondence. Many of these seals struck the stamps themselves, and, in effect, served to cancel them, but the stamps and covers are, alike, "fantasies," though often enormously attractive ones—both aesthetically, and from the standpoint of historical relics. Almost all of these strikes appear on stamps of the Sower issues, both lined and cameo, though a few of them are known on the Mersons.

The Sower-with-ground of April, 1906, was not in use long enough to beget illegitimate offspring, but one shade, that of the *lié-de-vin*, has been relegated to the realm of home-made creations, produced by chemical alteration. As I shortly expect to examine this stamp in some detail, I mention it here with

no further comment on its status.

Nearly all the major alterations of the Sower issues were brought about by surcharging the stamps in question. And it is in this field that the largest number of bogus varieties are, as one might expect, to be found. Among the earliest of them are the paquebot "Oxus" bisects which appeared, in 1905, from this French mail packet while making its run to and from Madagascar. The stamps so cut were all 15 centimes lined-Sowers, and at least about 900 of them—that is, 1800 halves—were affixed onto postcards, cancelled with the legend "Affranchissement special / faute de timbres a 10 cent," and passed into the mails. The debt this invention owes to the earlier (1904) and almost equally dubious Madagascar bisects, is evident. The malefactor in this case, a postal agent, came under the censure of a court of inquiry, and his creations were pronounced to be without sanction.<sup>1</sup>

Another, less famed but more interesting, attempt to foster a Sower variety was that of the individual who, in April, 1904, overprinted specimens of the 30 centimes violet value with the legend "Région Saharienne / Sud Algérien / A percévoir."

A further invention of this kind appeared in 1907 on several values of the Sower, this time from Morocco. The surcharge in this case is in sans-serif caps, and reads "Maroc Gouvernement Provisoire 1907". It had no validity, and I cannot trace the circumstances that brought it into being.

As there is nothing to prevent a private individual from making up any number of such handstamps, there may, for all I know, be others of a like quality floating around the market, and I would be grateful to any reader who might know of such imposters if he would apprise me of them.

The case of the Castellorizo overprints of 1920, while much of the same order as the above, has been given the sanction of the catalogues. Their story need not be repeated here, and I mention them only to point out how fine is the line, in some case, between respectability and a plain swindle.

Some of the Castellorizo overprints were issued on authority of a Governor's arrêté in the circumstances of a military occupation. But the fact that they were not needed, as French Levant stamps had been legally current there since 1915, is forgotten, though Scott's qualifies them as being "unnecessary and speculative." In 1921 stamps of French Levant handstamped "Occupation Francaise Castellorizo" were also made up but not issued (as the occupation ended) and have no legitimacy at all.

The Sowers, and the several Mersons, overprinted, at about this same time, by the Montenegrin government-in-exile I also consider to be of dubious legitimacy. However, they too have been very generally accepted for listing, at least in the specialized catalogues. I suppose that those reading "S. P. du M. / Bordeaux" must remain acknowledged. But the later ones, with the two-headed eagle, are, at best, unadopted essays.

It is, of course, in the field of genuine overprints that the artful grafter finds his happiest playground. Barring the many artificial errors created during the printing of the occupation surcharges for the Mediterranean outposts, from 1917 through 1922, and which, perforce, must be taken as genuine, the stamps that have been the object of the greatest amount of flim-flam are those Sowers that are purported to have received aberative Red Cross overprints, and those Sowers and Blancs altered into Franchise Militaire for the use of the troops. The former have been subjected to double and inverted overprints, all of which are of fraudulent provenance. None are known to have come about through legitimate channels.

<sup>1</sup>See Item #5 in "For the Record," FCP #118, for further details on this.—R. G. S.

The case of the F. M. overprints is more complex as there are indeed several valid varieties, among them a broken font, a missing period, a thin-legged M, and inverted printings. One or more of these errors exist on the 10 and 15 centimes lined Sowers, and on the 10 centimes Cameo Sower with heavy inscriptions.<sup>2</sup> However, I was once called in to examine a lot of such surcharges before they were put up at auction, and among them I found specimens with missing letters, both upright and inverted, with deviant spacings, and with breaks, of which there is no record. A careful examination revealed that all the surcharges had been done with the same fraudulent fonts and inks, probably not long before they had appeared on the market. Thus we may always expect the swindler to keep inventing as long as there is any possibility of turning a profit.

The most interesting bogus F. M. I know of, however, was none of these, and it did not pretend to be a rarity. I found it while leafing through a beginner's album left on consignment with a dealer, and there it occupied the space reserved for the 10 centimes cameo Sower with F. M. overprint. Only, the stamp on which the surcharge was apposed happened to be of the thin-inscription type, a condition that was not possible if the overprint was legitimate. And the overprint checks out as legitimate. Since I can think of no reason for faking the item, the supposition remains that a sheet of the wrong stamps may somehow have been run through the presses. Or it is a bogie with no purpose, created, and beautifully, only as an amusement. The former possibility is unrecorded; the latter is highly unlikely. For me, it is a mystery of this kind that makes philately a delight.

<sup>2</sup>See Yvert catalogs, and article in "Le Journ. des Philatelistes," 1908, pp. 268, 285, 311, ff.—R. G. S.

## THERE IS NOT ONE ENDLESS GRILL (1849-52), BUT TWO

By Pierre de Lizeray  
(Académie de Philatélie, Paris)

There is a very classical cancellation on the very classical Ceres that, if I may express myself so, "every one has seen but nobody has noticed."

All the catalogs I know give the same drawing of the well-known endless grill (probably because they copy one another) and I have never read anywhere that there is not only one pattern of this grill, but two. Auction catalogs show numerous photos of both of them, as they have about equal frequency, but the catalog descriptions of the lots never distinguish between them.

In the first type of endless grill, let us call it the "correct Z" (see I, in Fig. 1), the slanting lines are oriented NE-SW; it is the type illustrated by all the standard catalogs. In my drawing I have reenforced some lines to show the "Z".

The second type, let us call it the "wrong Z" (see II, Fig. 1), is the one never depicted and never noticed before. In my drawing of it I have again reenforced some lines to show the incorrect Z.

Not being forewarned, I myself for a long time did not notice the difference, until one day I saw photos of the two types of Z side by side in an auction catalog (like Fig. 2).

Now the first type cannot be merely the second type inverted. And here is the reason why: geometry teaches us that angles are preserved when inverted or rotated. So I immediately realized they must be different. The

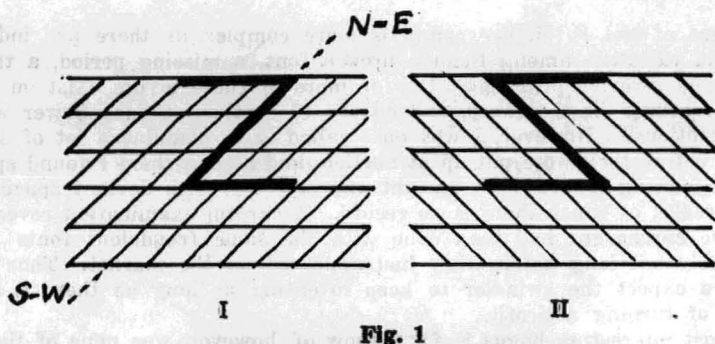


Fig. 1

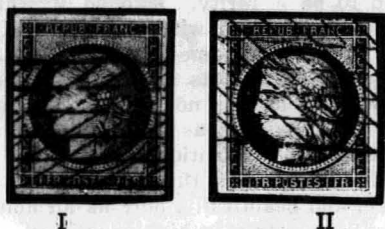


Fig. 2

reader may verify this by turning this page sideways and upside down: the incorrect Z will always remain incorrect and the correct one will always remain correct. Whether the roller used to strike one of these cancels were taken by the right hand or the left hand, or its handle turned one-half circle, or rolled on from left to right or the reverse, in any case each Z remains the same and different from the other.

Was one roller older than the other, or was it of the same date but belonging to another postoffice? I am very curious to know.



Ludovic Rodo caricature on the Blanc type stamp: "Useful gifts—design of a clock for postoffices."

(From Coll. du T. P., 1911, p. 24)

## TIMBRE-CARICATURE

### ÉTRENNES UTILES



Sujet de pendule pour bureaux de poste

"Fantasy—here is an amusing travesty on the work of Mon. LucOlivier Merson which our cartoonist sends us in continuation of the series of caricature stamps published in earlier issues of the *Collectionneur de Timbres-poste*."  
(From Coll. de T. P., 1904, p. 55.)

## WHAT TO COLLECT: COMMENTS ON MY COLLECTION OF FRANCE

By Frederik S. Eaton

These comments are offered as a result of reading Mr. Stone's article on "What to Collect Next?" in FCP #119. We hope the experience of one collector in developing and selecting the scope of his collection may be of interest and help to other collectors faced with the problem.

When I first commenced the serious specialized collecting of France I considered almost every group of cachet or cancellation material as grist for my mill. Professional friends, such as Raoul Lesgor, criticized me for "spreading myself too thin," and probably interesting myself in more specialty fields than I could conceivably find time and money to develop successfully. I continued my broad collecting, however, with eyes fully open, for I felt that until I had sampled each specialty and worked in it awhile I would not be able to tell if I cared to continue it seriously or not.

Eventually I did find the groups that I wished to continue, and equally, those that did not interest me sufficiently to make an effort to acquire more material.

But just about the time these decisions had been made, an altogether external influence began to complicate the issue. This was the inflation of prices on all French material, especially that coming from abroad—"la hausse" the French term it. Not just the annual-rise-in-value of popular material, but this factor of the special increase due to peculiar French philatelic conditions. A reappraisal of my collecting plans and desires then became essential. Certain lines in which I was especially interested, such as "cachets a date d'entrée," in the early 1960's became so costly (so many times the prices of Noel's catalog of 1958) that I could no longer afford to make the addition of even the commonest items, and their collecting was discontinued. Cancellations on the Empire issues also became too costly so I dropped that. Next I set myself the task of replacing used stamps with unused (up to a certain price), which certainly dressed up the collection.

By early 1963 I had made as permanent plans and decisions as seemed possible, considering personal appeal, availability to me, prospects of continuance in the special field, and material already on hand. It was decided to do as follows when and if possible:

1849-50 First Republic—keep what I have, mostly used, many fine shades, plate varieties, basic cancels, a few covers; probably infeasible to make additions.

1852 Presidency—have only a few, will keep without adding.

1853-60 Empire—have fine basic set, though part used; continue with shades and papers of various printings, but no longer keep cancellation material owing to cost (am exchanging and disposing of it).

1862 Empire—same.

1863-71 Empire laureated—in addition to shades and papers, continue colored cancels, precancels, and a few covers.

On all above issues will collect Type 16 single-small-circle cancels, of which I am very fond. As a skeleton representation I am keeping one or few examples of Ballon Montée, Boule de Moulins, emergency cancels, Paris lettered lozenges, maritime cachets, ambulants, foreign marks.

1870 German occupation—continue stamps and cancels.

1870-76 Siege de Paris—retain, but probably will not be able to add; have many cancels, plate varieties, shades, papers, and a set mostly unused.

Bordeaux—fortunately have all the “reports” and shades, but do not expect to extend nor go into cancels and covers.

Paris stars on cover or piece (only way to collect these) reduced to a simple series of numbered stars off-cover, 1 thru 39—admittedly a juvenile collecting order.

Square Dues—litho and typo and plate types collected.

Type Sage—a whole volume, my greatest 19th century interest. Have seriously gone into shades and cancels, stamps rather than covers have given me more for my money and a better showing. Have no hope of owning a 1c Prussian Blue, but have rest unused except for 25c ultra N under B which is lightly cancelled. Colored cancels, precancels, an entire sheet, the two types se-tenant, millésime pairs. I am specially seeking clear town cancels on 25c yellow (pretty), “Jour de L’an” cancels, journaux and imprimées, périodiques, facteurs, Paris Bourse, levées, etc., Départ, Étranger, Affranchissements, Chargements, Type 16, Offices Abroad, foreign cancels, railroad (ambulant, etc.), a few maritime (too costly).

Duval Type dues—Here I have done a little original research into the matter of flat plate and rotary press impressions, with aid of my correspondent Arthur Merrick.

Newspaper, telegraph, and postal stationery complete the 19th collection, which totals three volumes.

The remaining 15 volumes of the collection consist of 20th Century issues. No curtailing of these is planned, and hope to acquire the few major items lacking—though the rarer coils and booklets are too high priced or practically unobtainable. In the typographic issues every side-line such as precancels, annulé, spécimen, etc., is shown. The Mouchon, Merson, and Blanc types are in great detail, especially the Blanc which is one of my two 20th specialties—the seven types of Scott are displayed in over 400 separate non-duplicating pieces. The lined background Sower is my second specialty, still growing as De Lizeray makes new discoveries; good booklet and coil representation. A volume of cameo Sower in considerable detail; a volume with Pasteur, Joan of Arc, Fachi and Peace types, and another with Ceres, Mercury and Iris. Varieties and important shades of the recess stamps are represented including the types of the early recess stamps.

Of the 1940-44 issues I do not collect the questionable liberation overprints, only those of Lille, Bordeaux and Lyon, and some colonial liberation issues. Of six volumes of postwar issues, one includes the occupation of Germany, Berlin, and Saar, but haven’t made a final decision to retain these.

Some additional volumes contain flammes illustrées collected on piece, which I recommend for their charm and topical interest; they take too much space on cover but are not expensive.

Have not yet taken up postal stationery but would like to collect those with vignettes not used on adhesives; nor have I ever studied or mounted my big accumulation of parcel post stamps.

In 20th century it seemed to me wise to secure the various blocs feuillets or souvenir sheets with cancellations of the exhibitions, rather than mint.

For one interested in collecting something for study which is still ill-reported in the literature, I would suggest the French dues, especially their division into flat and rotary printings—Arthur Merrick is probably the leading student of these here.

## F. & C. P. S. OFFICIAL

### President's Letter

Dear Members—

It is with pleasure that I am in position to report that during the past term, we have added to our roster more than 80 members, including many reinstatements as well as new adherents. We are looking ahead with a promotional program now in process that should bring more specialists in our field to membership.

The officers wish to thank the many members who assisted and worked with them in making the year one of our best. With the extremely well-received new Philatelist and the cooperation of the New York members we find ourselves well along the way to a better and growing Society.

The summer months are ahead of us, the golf clubs and fishing tackle are coming out, but let us not forget the old stamp albums. Look forward to a more vigorous season in the fall, and two international exhibitions here in the spring following.

Sincerely, Charles Bretagne, Pres.



### Secretary's Notice

Deadline for payment of 1965 dues is 1 July, 1965; all members not paid by then will be removed from mailing list.—G. L.

Deadline for September issue copy is August 10.—R. G. S.

### Officers for 1965-66 Elected

At the meeting of May 4, the annual FCPS elections were held. The results are announced as follows:

President: Charles Bretagne  
Vice President: Ira Zweifach  
Treasurer: Beatrice Berner

Directors: Frederick Joseph 1965-66  
Richard Hamilton 1965-66  
William Connelly 1965-67  
Eric Spiegel 1965-67

Recording Secretary: Walter Parshall  
Corres. Secretary: Gilbert S. Loisel

The President announces that he has appointed for 1965-66:  
as Editor—Robert G. Stone      as Attorney—Frederick Joseph

Any changes in Committees will be announced later.

### The F&CPS Booklet Project

Seven or eight years ago Louise Cléménçon, as spokesman for a group of our members, proposed to the Society that it sponsor the compilation of a "complete" catalog listing of French booklets, because of the great interest in the subject and the alleged inadequacy of the existing literature. As a result a circular was sent to members asking for descriptions of booklets in their possession. A very detailed description scheme was envisaged, showing all possible combinations of the various elements of a booklet. As this soon got into complexities, the assistance of Raoul Lesgor was sought. He advised that the scope of the project was impossibly ambitious and would lead to literally thousands of minor varieties which no collector could ever hope to com-

plete. As the subject is intricate and perhaps many members did not appreciate its ramifications, Raoul prepared an article on the Sower booklets to help clarify the picture. This was published in "Stamps" for Nov. 1, 1953, pp. 174-176, titled "The Stamp Booklets of France—The 50 centimes Sower Design." Unfortunately interest in the project had meanwhile subsided and the article was overlooked, not even being mentioned in the Philatelist. It is still a good article to read to get a feel for what is involved in these booklets, which are popular and of great intrinsic interest. There are of course further researches now available and the excellent catalog of Tessier has been published.—R. G. S.

### The F & C P S Glossary Project

Not long after the booklet project was conceived, some members proposed that a glossary showing the English equivalents of French philatelic terms be prepared and published. A committee was appointed, under Charles Neidorf. Your editor compiled a list of hundreds of terms with translations, which was sent to Mr. Neidorf, who proceeded to make many additions. However, in the course of his studies he found so many terms which did not have a clear meaning in French and which pointed to the need for further research that he turned his energies towards such research and deferred further work on the glossary. As he is still deeply enmeshed in research he recently passed to me his glossary notes and I am studying them to see how the material may be winnowed down to a scope that could be issued in reasonable time and cost.—R. G. S.

### Numbering of Philatelist Corrected

Through oversight we have identified whole numbers 118 through 120 as Vol. 21, Nos. 1-3, whereas they should be Vol. 22, Nos. 1-3. With this issue we resume the correct designation, Vol. 22. Please correct the headings on your Nos. 118-120.

### NEW MEMBERS

(As of May 15, 1965)

- 966 ROBERTS, Trevor D., Route 1, Box 200, Coudeville, Washington (France and Colonies, including Varieties, Imperfs, DeLuxe sheets, etc.)
- 967 HAZARD, Georges E., Frelighsburg (etc Missisquoi), Q. P., Canada. (All France and Colonies, mostly Free French Forces)
- 968 BAGNESCHI, Stephen, Mrs., 22 Lenox St., Rochester, N. Y. 14611. (Beginner—Regarding French Specialty)
- 969 ZAHN, Joseph S., Jr., 30 Aldon Terrace, Bloomfield, N. J. (General, all issues)
- 970 ARONOFF, Daniel J., 1180 Hermosa Way, Menlo Park, Calif. 94026. (France and All Colonies—general)
- 971 NOWILL, Mrs. Pauline E., 232 Riverdale St., West Springfield, Mass. 01089. (Stamps of France and first day covers)
- 972 FRITZ, Msgt. Albert C., Box 6336, APO 09282, New York, N. Y. (France only—mint and cancellations)
- 973 PRINS, Jan C., 120 West Northfield Rd., Livingston, N. J. 07039 (Perfins of France and its former colonies, Slogan cancellations type Daguin and illustrated)
- 974 PAULO, Anthony M., 6015 Wilber Ave., Parma 29, Ohio (All France and its colonies)
- 975 PEACE, Brian R., 24 The Green, Leeds 17, Yorkshire, England (Colonies in Pacific and Indian Oceans—philatelic literature only)

- 976 CADWELL, Raymond C., 45-206 Nohonani Pl., Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
(France and all Colonies)
- 977 DUVAL, François, Route de Tours, Chatillon/Indre, Indre, France.
- 978 PETERS, Donald J., 316 Academy Ave., Providence, Rhode Island 02908  
(French Africa with emphasis on stamps of Obock and Somali Coast plus others)
- 979 WILSON, George Henry, 2035 N. W. 120th St., Miami, Florida 33167  
(Colonies)

#### REINSTATEMENTS

- 843 CHISWELL, E. A., 55 Rosetree Rd, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.
- 817 MOYER, J. William, 3210 McKently St., Laureldale, Pa. 19605.

#### CORRECTION

- 462 ROBBINS, Elsie, 1204 Wakefield Road, Flourtown, Pa. 19031. (This member's name was never listed in the Philatelist, apologies please)

#### CHANGED ADDRESSES

- 197 GORDON, Robert S., Box 145, Northfield, Vermont 05663.
- 851 BOLYARD, Byron E., Shipping Dept., The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60603.
- 785 MARTIN, Irving, Box 1105, Washington, D. C. 20013.
- 642 HOWES, Alfred S., 42 Fenimore Road, Scarsdale, New York.
- 828 DAVIDSON, Ira N., 65 Central Park West, New York, N. Y. 10023.
- 930 WEJROWSKI, Ed. D., 4221 South 6th St., Milwaukee, Wisc. 53221.
- 321 BAUGHMAN, R. W., Box 1178, Liberal, Kansas 67901.
- 770 NADATA, Henry, P. O. Box 374, River St. Station, Paterson, N. J. 07524
- 963 WINTER, Richard F., RD #2, Traver Rd., Wilton, N. Y. 12866
- 864 GREENSHIELDS, Milton, 3669 2nd Street, Riverside, Calif. 92502.
- 278 LA RUE, William L., 720, 61st Place, LaGrange, Ill. 60525.
- 794 MARSH, John O., University of Illinois, Box 4348, Chicago, Ill. 60680.
- 698 KUHN, W. E., P. O. Box 908, Federal Station, Portland, Oregon 97207.

#### REMOVED FROM MAILING LIST

- 422 ALDER, Bradbury C., 747 16th St., N. E., Massillon, Ohio (Resigned)
- 542 DODGE, Norman (No forwarding address)
- 928 HIRSCH, Marcel S., 900 Palmer Rd., Bronxville, N. Y. (Resigned)

#### FRENCH PHILATELY AT THE SMITHSONIAN

The Division of Philately and Postal History and the National Postage Stamp Collection, under the Curatorship of Carl Scheele, are now housed in the magnificent new Museum of History and Technology building in Washington. During a recent visit there, your editor learned that the Division has the nucleus of a very fine philatelic library, in which there is a nearly complete file of our Philatelist, as well as other publications on France and colonies. Also it has a considerable collection of stamps of France and colonies. Although the Division has very fine facilities for exhibiting material and for educational effort in philately, it unfortunately does not have a budget that permits much purchase of stamps and publications to add to its collections. Therefore donations of such material are welcomed, and many individuals and organizations have been giving them. For example, the Division desires to complete its file of the Yvert et Tellier annual catalogs. The following years are needed and it is suggested that any of our readers who have copies they would be willing to part with present them to the Museum: 1897-1916 incl., 1918, 1922, 1924, 1927, 1930-33, 1937, 1941-45, 1954, 1957-59, 1962 (vols. 2 and 3), 1963.—R. G. S.

## CURRENT JOURNAL ARTICLES

### Le Monde des Philatélistes (thru April '65):

Feb. '65: Boblique: "Les trois 10 Centimes Semeuse Camée a Inscriptions Grasse" (begin serial); Rouques: "Le Fin des Tirages des Timbres en Anciens Francs" (begin; end in March); Muller: "Les Meetings d'Aviation 1910" (begin serial).

March '65: Fromaigeat: "Histoire des Timbres de l'Empire" (cont. of series started in Bull. Phil. Midi in 1961 thru Jan. '65).

April '65: Tessier: "Les carnets Particuliers"; Lefevre: "Entiers Postaux — Une Découverte."

### L'Echo de la Timbrologie (thru April '65):

March '65: (#1335): Leblanc: "Les Bureaux Français a L'Etranger et les Emissions de 1902"; Carnévalé-Mauzan: "La Poste et les Camps de Prisonniers de Guerre—" (end of serial).

April '65: Maincent: "La Poste Privée des Rothschild" (begin serial); Lafitte: "Les Deux 2fr Noratlas"; Boblique: "Les Carnets et Timbres Poste de Carnets Expliquées" (begin serial).

### La Philatélie Française (Nov. '64 thru April '65):

Jan. '65 (#142): Deloste: "Des Timbres de Franchise peu connus (F.M.)"; Garnier: "Les préoblitérées de France" (serial, began 1964).

Feb. '65: "Les tarifs de la carte postale dans le régime intérieur"; "La poste armées en 1914-18"; Bayle: "Les sujets Français sur les timbres étrangers (begin, end Apr. '65); Danan: "Note sur les timbres de l'UNESCO et leur affranchissements mixtes du 18-22 Jan. 1965."

March '65: DeLizeray: "Le 30c Coq et ses présentations."

April '65: Rochette: "Les encres d'imprimerie" (begin serial); "La poète de service: La dernière Semeuse" (poem to last Sower, 20c, withdrawn 20 March '64).

### L'Echangiste Universelle (thru April '65):

Jan. '65: (#776): DePomyers: "Les bons timbres—Madagascar" (serial, began 1963, cont.); Gachot: "La période postale transitoire Alsace 1940-41" (begin serial); Gallimard: "Après Philatéc—la mécanisation postale"; Lerous: "Chronique artistique du timbre Française" (serial began 1963?)

### The Aero Philatelist Annals, Vol. XII, no. 4, April '65:

Hamilton: "Free French Africa Commercial air mail covers during World War II."

### Cahiers Philatéliques: (A. Brun et fils, Paris):

No. 11, March 1959: Brun: "Méfiez-vous!" (forgeries); "Pannetier: "Haut Sénégal et Moyen Niger."

No. 12, June 1959: Le Moigne: "La tenue a la lumière des couleurs utilisées en France il y'a soixante ans pour l'impression des timbres poste"; Brun: "Méfiez-vous"; Rochette: "Les truquages pour rire—et les autres"; Tristant: "Haut Sénégal et Niger."

No. 13, Sept. 1960: Serres: "A propos d'une oblitération aérienne française —Dépêche de Toulouse 1926-28"; Brun: "Méfiez-vous"; Brun: "Algérie—type du no. 196 effigée de M. Pétain"; Brun: "Etude d'un panneau du timbre de 50fr de la Côte des Somalis, 1894, no. 21 Yv."

- No. 14, Dec. 1963: Brun: "Souvenirs—Emile Marquet"; Serres: "Les cachets de destination au Maroc"; Peyrieux: "Un faux nouveau du 5fr Empire"; Brun: "Surcharge Festung L'Orient sur deux lignes cachet a main—caractere métal"; Brun: "Jerusalem, Bureau consulaire Français."

#### **Société Internationale d'Histoire Postale, Bulletin:**

- No. 2, Nov. 1963: Balensi: "La poste au Haut Sénégal et Niger 1910-14."  
No. 7/8, 1964: Lenain: "Les Petits Postes"; Carnévalé-Mauzan: "Ou en est l'enquête nationale sur le service postale rurale"; Moiroud: "La poste a Grenoble 1800-05"; Rivière: "Affranchissement en numéraire pendant la guerre 1870-71."

#### **La Liaison Philatélique:**

- No. 368, 15 Nov. 1963: Decaris: "Timbres monnaies de Madagascar."

#### **Revue des P. et T. de France (6 nos. per ann.):**

- Vol. 19, no. 5, Sept.-Oct. 1964: E. M.: "Etymologie Postale" (cont. department, began no. 1 1964); Croze: "La journée de la technique Philatéc Paris 1964"; "Philatélie" (a cont. dept. on new issues, flammes illus., special events).

#### **Les Cahiers de Cercle d'Etudes Postales, No. 5, 1963:**

- Pouzet: "Messagers d'autrefois—Le Cardinal Dubois, Gd. Maître et Supérieurs des Postes"; Guillot: "Brevet de maître de poste pour un Brivois"; "Obliterations étrangers sur timbres Français—Barcelone"; "Les Agences Postales militaires 'AIR' au 21 Mai 1960."

#### **Bulletin de l'Association Philatélique de l'Océan Indien:**

- No. 23, June 1964: Bauchet: "Relations postales entre Maurice et Réunion 1815-65" (serial, cont. in #'s 24, 25, etc.).

#### **Bulletin de la Société des Amis du Musée Postale:**

- No. 5, 1964: Legendre: "La griffe de l'ordre impériale de la Réunion"; "Un cachet-taxe provisoire Paris 1871"; Rigol: "Coqs".

#### **Feuilles Marcophile:**

- No. 161 (1964): Lux: "Les cachets de convoyeurs-lignes au Type III connus a la date du 1er Juin 1964" (pp. 31-61); Rachon: "Les agences postales SAS on SAU d'Algérie" (pp. 68-78).  
No. 162 (1964): Legendre: "Insurrection Parisienne de Juin 1848 et ses marques" (pp 11-17); Tristant: "Aperçu sur la censure Allemande au cours de la 2e Guerre Mondiale 1939-45" (pp 41-64); Deloste: "La poste des armées alliés en France pendant la 2e Guerre Mondiale" (75-77); Maincent: "Documents inédits sur la poste communaliste" (105-118); Four: "La création de la poste dans la province Sarde de Chambéry" (82-89).  
No. 163 (1964): Deloste: "La poste militaire Française au service de l'armée Polonaise en France en 1939-40" (p. 13-15); Wendel: "Cachets Allemandes réemployées en Alsace et en Lorraine pendant la période transitoire de 1944-45" (pp 24-7); Tristant: "La Voie Postale Transsibérienne" (33-74).

#### **American Philatelist, Vol. 78, no. 6, March 1965:**

- E. Keys: "Military postmarks of the Fighting Free French Forces: 1949-1945" (pp 415-424).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

Plans for two International Philatelic Exhibitions in U. S. have been recently announced, which will give our members a chance to show their collections again in high company and with some worthy competition. A group in Washington, D. C., called NAEPEX, will hold the Sixth Int. Phil. Exhibition in U. S. (SIPEX) at Washington, D. C., Shoreham Hotel, May 21-30, 1966. The first prospectus will be available in July 1965; write to the general chairman: George T. Turner, 408 A Street, S. E., Washington, D. C. 20003. It will be under FIP auspices and rules. This exhibition was planned when the Association For Stamp Exhibitions, Inc., in New York was unable to obtain agreement for a show there in 1966 and gave up its efforts. Meanwhile, another group in New York, sparked by Herbert Rosen, believing the Washington 1966 exhibition will not be able to put on as big and suitable a show as fitting for the U. S., have decided to hold an International in New York in 1967.

An International Air Mail and Aerospace Exhibition in New York June 10-12 1966 is being planned by Herbert Rosen of Industrial Exhibitions, Inc., under FISA auspices and participation of 11 air mail societies.

The next INTERPEX show has been scheduled for March 4-6, 1966, at the Americana in New York, and FCPS has again been invited to participate as in past years.

A Paris dealer is advertising the Philatelic sheet at 100 fr. and claims only about 50,000 or 75,000 sheets are left intact in existence (compare our note in For The Record, item 25, FCP #120). The PT announced that 2,400,000 of the 1fr Philatelic stamp were printed in all, and 9,500,000 of the strips of four.

A mint block of the 15c Ceres first issue brought 26,000 fr at a recent Paris auction of P. Roumet; and a mint block of the 5fr Empire brought 14,085fr.

Mint precancelled stamps of France heretofore were sold only in lots of 1000 or more. They are now available to collectors as singles at face value but only sold at the philatelic windows of the R. P. Paris rue du Louvre and Ave. de Saxe, Bordeaux, Marseille, and Lyon. One can obtain them by writing to the receveurs of these offices.

Ladislaus Varga, the well-known director of the T. Champion firm in Paris, has been awarded the Croix de Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur, for his work as editor of the Yvert et Tellier catalogs during the last decade, which have given France international prestige in the philatelic world.

Since January, modified coin machines for dispensing coil stamps have been introduced in some French postoffices; these machines sell the new 30c coq de Decaris stamps as singles; the stamps have perfs clipped on all four sides.

The "new" 30c coq and blason de Paris stamps have coin dates of 1963 on the sheets of 100, showing that the PT had planned the raise in postage rates long ago and had the stamps ready for two years swaiting for approval of the parliament.

The Chambre Syndicale des Nogociants en Timbres-Poste, 5 Rue Drouot, Paris 1, is the French equivalent of the ASDA in U. S. A handy list of all its members, their addresses and specialties appeared in L'Echo de la Timbrologie for June 1964. Charles Bretagne is the only U. S. member.

Rather unheralded and unpublicized, the four new postage due stamps of France, in pretty flower designs, were issued on Jan. 18, 1965.

The Société des Amis du Musée Postale (4 rue St. Romain, Paris 6) published a very artistic postcard in four colors, sold with 30c Coq stamp and a first day cancel, for 1.50fr.

The recently issued 30c Blasons de Paris stamp has created a minor furore because it is not printed in the proper colors of the Paris coat of arms. The heraldic experts say that without the right colors it is simply not a true blason. The PT didn't think it made any difference but chose colors for technical and administrative reasons.

It is reported that the Municipal Council of Paris intends to name a street after Oscar Roty, the designer of the Sower coin and stamp motif. As Roty did not use his given first name, Oscar, but preferred his middle name Louis, the Federation of French Philatelic Societies has asked the Prefet of the Seine to name the street "Louis Roty". The street will be the former passage Lourmel.

A. Rochette has in preparation a catalogue of obliterations of Bureaux de Quartier 1849-76 and also of lozenges of Bureaux des Gares 1864-76.

Gabriel Honnorat and Paul Combes are compiling a book on "Boites Rurales des Bouches de Rhone."

During 1965 several books of interest are scheduled to appear: "Catalogue de la Seine" by Allard and Legendre; "Catalogue des Convoyeurs-Lignes Types 1-III" by J. Pothion; and "Losanges de Paris" by A. Rochette.

## NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, AND CATALOGS

"Neuer Ganzsachen-Katalog, 7. Lieferung: Europa:—Frankreich, Algerien, Französischen Postanstalten im Auslande (Aegypten)". By W. Beckhaus. Berliner Ganzsachen-Sammler-Vereins, Berlin, 1962. (For sale by Bryant-Pollard Co., Proctorsville, Vt. \$3.50 postpaid.)

"France—29th Annual Edition, Price List of the Stamps of France." 30 pp. Publ. by R. Lesgor, Holmes, N. Y., 1964-65.

"La Poste Maritime Francaise, Historique et Catalogue. Tome IV, Les Paquebots de l'Atlantique Nord, Antilles, Amérique Centrale, Etats Unis." May 1965. The author, 74 Rue de la Tour, Paris 16. 52Fr p.p. 300pp, 500 illustrations, 30 maps, tables of 4,300 voyages of the mail packets.

"Concordance des Calendriers Républicain et Grégorien." By J. Pothion. 10.85fr p.p. The author, 17 Rue du Faubourg Montmartre, Paris 9.

"Timbres et Types. Tome V: Le Type Blanc." By Pierre de Lizéray, 14 Rue de Poitiers, Paris 7. 6fr. p.p.

"An Introduction to the Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks of France from 1849-1876." By Wilfred Bentley. Vol. I, Part III, pp. 33-48. 1965. France and Cols. Phil. Soc., C. L. Easton, Secry., 58 Park Ave., Sittingbourne, Kent, England. Price 3/6.

"Oblitérations des Bureaux Temporaires et Premières Jours de 1964; La Cotisation des Oblitérations Temporaires Francaises, 1941-64." Brochure #72, Le Monde des Philatélistes, 14 rue du Helder, Paris 9. 5.00fr plus p.

"Les Timbres de la Liberation." By Jacques F. Lion. 324 pp. 1965. 77.70fr. p.p. Editions Sinfonia, 68 Champs Elysées, Paris.

## FOR THE RECORD

### CORRECTIONS:

- To Item 29: instead of "abbreviations P. C. and G. C." should read "numerals of the Petit Chiffres and Grand Chiffres types."
- To Item 35: Page 50 4th line from top, should read "lower left" instead of "lower right."
- To Item 44: The date should be 1953 instead of 1943.

51.) The use of picture postcards (first class with a message) was first authorized in France, Algeria and Tunis on 1 Dec. 1903, according to *L'Union Postale*.

52.) Telegram-letter service between France and colonies was first announced in the *PTT Bull. Hebdomaire* during 1899. This was a mixed telegraph and mail correspondence especially for benefit of soldiers in certain of the colonies, to obtain more rapid transmittal than the all-mail route but at less cost than by all-telegraph. It was applicable only to West Africa, Indochina, New Caledonia, Reunion, Madagascar, and Guiana. Telegraph was used between an interior point in and seaport in France and/or colony, the PTT forwarding the message by sea mail between seaports, using a special form. The rate in 1900 was 5c a word in France to the ports (minimum charge 50c) plus 15c for the sea-mail. Thus 25 words Lyon to Majunga cost 1.40 fr. To the colonial interior the telegram cost 10c a word (1fr. minimum); thus Lyon to Tananarive was 2.65fr. The regular telegraph tariff at that time was 7.10fr per word! We have a number of the special blue "Telegramme" forms (No. 711) containing messages sent by the receveur de postes at Dakar to the receveur at Bordeaux, franked with 10c or 15c, and in one case 35c, Senegal stamps, in the period 1906-10. Some of these bear a straightline handstamp "VOIE DAKAR", which Comte de Pomyers, in his book on Senegal, states he found on various French colonies general issues, and Senegal stamps and believes is a mark of the French mail packets. However, this latter supposition seems doubtful as the mark is not mentioned in Salles exhaustive work on "La Poste Maritime," Tome III, and no "Ligne" marks are found on the forms.—R. G. S.

53.) A list of the special hexagonal "SAS" and "SAU" postmarks of the small military postal agencies opened during the Algerian rebellion of 1956-58 is given in *LeMonde* for Oct. 1958, p. 16; and in *Feuilles Marcophiles* #161, pp. 68-78.

54.) Have you noticed that the 1917 pictorial issue of Morocco was partly printed by typography (1c to 45c) and partly by recess (50c to 10fr)? Most catalogs do not indicate this, or incorrectly if at all; only the Yvert et Tellier specialized cat. Vol. II (1936) mentions it correctly. Some catalogs get it confused with the 1923 issue in the same designs, which is heliogravured. The use of recess at this early date (long before any other issues) by the Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres is difficult to understand since the AFT was not supposed to have facilities for recess; perhaps the engraving and plate production and even the printing was done outside on contract. Why was this part of a wartime issue of only one French country singled out for this recess



Item 37, For the Record

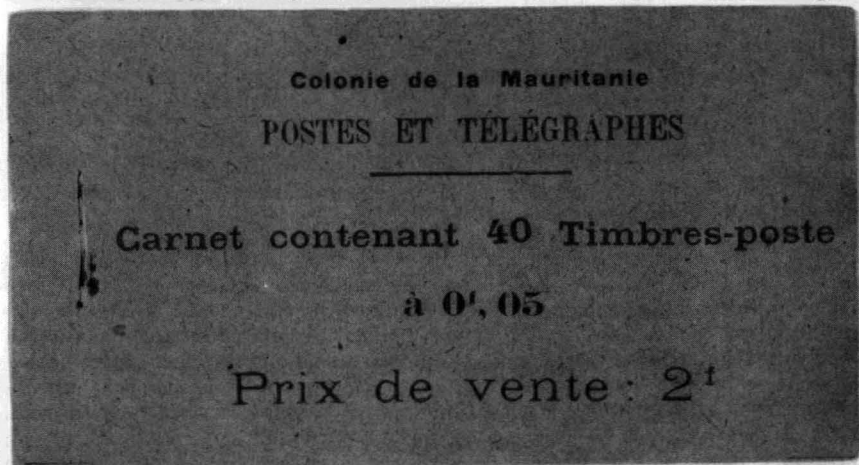
experiment? Some special politics no doubt—we must remember that the postal administration of Morocco (like Tunis) was autonomous, not under either the French or Colonial postal service.—R. G. S.

55.) Tunis is one of the most interesting of French countries for the collector, because its postal administration, independent of both French and colonial posts, was free to depart somewhat from the standardized patterns of the latter. Thus we have some rather individual items in its postal material. Mention could be made of the punching of postage stamps to convert them to dues stamps, the special-delivery letter cards ("Expres-Lettre") handled like telegrams, the extensive parcel-post issues, and the pioneer air-mail issue of 1919. Some of the postal stationery was sold in packages covered by a special printed wrapper.

56.) The postal history of French West and Equatorial Africa is of special interest for, among other things, the difficulties of transportation that had to be overcome. This is reflected to some extent in the postal markings;

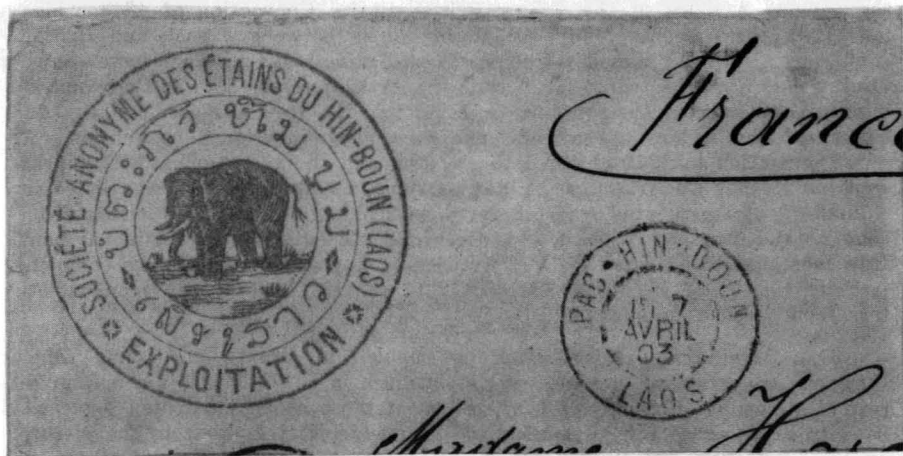


Item 52, For the Record



Item 64, For the Record

the ocean maritime postmarks are well known (see Salles "La Poste Maritime Francaise," Tome III), but the philatelic evidence of the river and coastal mailboats, the autobus mails, airmails, transahara camel and auto mails, are not so common and little has been published about them. The early airmail cachets are given in LePileur's book (also L'Echo, #s 1033, 1035) and in some airmail catalogs. Tristant's articles in L'Echo #s 1214-17, 1223, 1226, 1228-31 (Jan. 1955-June 1956) cover the river, rail, autobus, and airport marks fairly extensively, and a later article by him in Feuilles Marcophile #151 deals with the provisional wartime airmail cachets. An interesting article in L'Union Postale for Feb. 1934 (p. 33-45) by LeLay describes "The Means of Transport across the Sahara and How They are Utilized for the Conveyance of the Mails." A very vividly written and illustrated article by F. Navech on "The Air Mail Line France-Congo" appeared in L'Union Postale 1936, pp. 25-50 (repr. from Bull. Inf. PTT, Oct. 1935). A booklet by Benj. E. Thomas, "Transportation and Physical Geography in West Africa" (Dept. of Geography, Univ. of Cal. at Los Angeles, 1960) contains unique maps showing the evolution of the var-



Item 67, For the Record

ious caravan, rail, bus, road and air routes in North and West Africa and the Sahara, and for the roads their usability at different seasons of the year. His earlier report, "Trade Routes of Algeria and the Sahara" (Univ. of Cal. Publs. in Geography, vol. 8, #3, 1957) is also of much interest.—R. G. S.

57.) Official French correspondence sent registered at a reduced rate was marked with an "A" instead of the conventional "R" after 16 Feb. 1900 (not listed in "Catalogue Des Estampilles").

58.) The French seapost service (poste maritime) has generally been operated on French-registry merchant and passenger vessels of certain lines and companies, under contract with the government. These contracts usually required that a Comptroller of the Sea Postal Service be accommodated on board each ship with a first class cabin and an adjoining office space and a safe-room in which to lock up the mails. He cost the government only ½ regular fare and had a landing boat put at his disposal at each port of call. Sounds like a nice job, but—he had to sort and postmark all the mail put on board in closed sacks at each port, and that could be quite a rush when the ports were not far apart. This was the fellow who put all the "Ligne" postmarks on covers and used the famous anchor cancel. On the heavier runs there might be a whole crew ("brigade") of clerks, perhaps working round the clock on shifts.

59.) Our member Everel Keys has published an extensive and well-illustrated study of "Military Postmarks of the Fighting Free French Forces: 1940-1945" in Amer. Philatelist for March 1965, pp. 415-424. It reveals an amazing variety and complexity of these markings, and of course a great historical interest. He has also prepared another article, to be published later, on the Free French censor marks.

60.) We are frequently asked to explain the cachets seen on many stampless letters from French colonies (and other countries) to France in the period 1843-56, consisting of a rectangle inscribed "COLONIES, ETC./ART. 12" (or "13", "14", etc.) These are well known and illustrated in many books and articles, but there is a great deal of confusion as to their purpose and meaning. Dr. Hennan in an article in Amer. Philatelist Sept. 1953, thought he had the key to the mystery by claiming the "ART" referred to the various Articles of the Franco-British Postal Convention of 1843, which laid down the procedures for exchanging mails between French and British countries. However plausible this was, Col. Skrine and Col. Webb have shown (Bull. Post. Hist. Soc. #93, 1958) that the Articles referred to in these markings are the articles (or columns, or tables) in the way-bills used to keep accounts of the letters exchanged under the above-mentioned convention. A new Convention in 1856 changed the system and the rectangular ART marks were no longer used. Article 12, for example, meant the letter was listed in column 12 of the printed way-bill form, the column reserved for letters from colonies and overseas to France via Great Britain on which a certain payment rate was due the British P. O. Articles 9, 11, 12, 13 are fairly common, Articles 10, 17, 18, 19, 20 are rare; only 12 and 13 (1843-55) are seen on letters from French colonies.—R. G. S.

61.) Maximum-card collecting is popular in France and some other European countries but has not caught on much in U. S. What is a maximum card? A leading French exponent defines it thus: a) an illustrated postcard, b) with a postage stamp of analogous (if not identical) subject to the picture on the card, having franking power, affixed to the picture-face of the card, and c) postally cancelled with a postmark concordant and appropriate to the

time, country, and subject. There is a society devoted to the fancy: Union Maximaphile Internationale, 3 Rue du Morey-St. Denis, Dijon, France; L'Echangiste Universelle acts as its official organ, and it offers a new issue service. Le Monde, L'Echo, and other French philatelic magazines devote much space to this field.

62.) Collecting modern "paquebot" markings on stamps and covers, is a side-line specialty for some and there are societies and magazines entirely devoted to it (Seaposter, of Maritime Postmark Society, e.g.). But general collectors and specialists in particular countries often find these marks of interest and desirable. Thus a specialized collection of France should properly include the "paquebot" marks of French seaports and those of other countries struck on French stamps. The subject is specially popular and developed in U. S. and Great Britain where comprehensive catalogs (worldwide) have been published, but little attention has been given to it in France (the late A. Leralle of Paris was one of the few collectors of them), and no extended listing of French and French colonial "paq" marks was published in France until R. Salles began listing them in his current series of books on "La Poste Maritime Francaise." A large portion if not the majority of loose ship-letters from French countries or boats are landed in foreign ports and thus acquire foreign "paq" marks—these are all covered in Studd's book on "Paquebot and Ship Cancellations of the World" (up to 1951) and later ones in Seaposter. Some French colonies, for geographical reasons, are susceptible to much of their outgoing mail obtaining foreign "paq" marks, so much so that the specialists in those colonies can't overlook them. These colonies and the chief sources of "paq" marks on them are as follows:

St. Pierre et Miquelon—various eastern Canadian ports (No. Sydney, Halifax, etc.).

Oceania—San Francisco, Fiji, and New Zealand.

New Caledonia—Sydney.

West and Eq. Africa, Morocco—French, English, Portuguese ports.

Algeria, Tunis—Marseille.

Guadeloupe and Martinique—New York, Boston, San Juan, St. Thomas, Barbados, Trinidad, Canada, Panama.

Indochina—Hong Kong, Singapore.

In addition ship's purser's marks (unofficial) may be found cancelling colonies and French stamps, but only mail from Oceania, West and Eq. Africa, Guadeloupe and Martinique show many of these. German seapost marks are frequent on some African colonies, and U. S. seaposts on French stamps.—R. G. S.

63.) The bisects of Obock stamps of 1894 that were authorized for use in Djibouti (Somali Coast) in 1901 and 1903 are listed in the catalogs under Obock but should be under Somali Coast as Obock was no longer a separate colony after 1896 (Scott's notwithstanding). What is not revealed by the ordinary catalogs is that the two halves of the bisected 25c (Obock Scott no. 53a and 53b, Yvert 54a and 54b) were not issued at the same time; the right halves of these stamps were issued on 12 Nov. 1901, and the left halves kept in storage and issued on June 13, 1903. The left halves were valid for 2c postage, the right halves for 5c, since the numeral 25 was split exactly by the bisecting operation—a very unusual bisect to say the least.

64.) Booklets of some colonies stamps were issued between 1907 and the early '20's but like the postal stationery they did not prove popular in the colonies and were given up. Complete booklets are very hard to find. There is no definitive complete catalog, though Rogers, Scott, and Tessier list many

or most of them. They are generally without publicity or pubs. The booklets we have seen all had a fixed price of 2fr regardless of denomination of the stamps; thus the booklet of 5c contained 40 stamps (10 panes of 4) and that of the 10c contained 20 stamps. Covers are of buff, printed on front: "Colonie du (name)/Carnet contenant 40 (20, etc.) Timbres-poste/a 0f, 05 (0,10 etc.)/Prix de vente: 2f." The color of ink used on the cover varied according to the denomination: 5c in green, 10c in red, etc. Each pane of four had perforations extending through the N and S margins and through either the E or W margins. Panes were usually interleaved with parafin sheets.—R. G. S.

65.) With reference to Item 46 in For the Record, Robert Gordon writes: I have a 1946 picture postcard (picture of main street of Murzuk) with Algerian stamp Scott 151 cancelled "SEBHA/SUD-TRIPOLITAIN/23.446". The card also bears blue circular cachet: TERRITOIRE du FEZZAN-GHADAMES/LE GOUVERNEUR MILITAIRE.

66.) A commercial advertising promotion which created thousands of picture-post-card mailings from various French colonies (and other countries), many of which are falling into collectors hands, was carried on in recent years by several U. S. drug firms. They obtained picture post cards from a given colony (local scenes), printed in the message space an advertising "plug" for some drug, and had the cards mailed out from that colony to a large list of doctors in the U. S. We have seen many of these. They make nice "commercial" cover items for a colonies collection.

67.) Covers from Laos prior to 1920 are not too common, especially from places other than Vientiane. We have an attractive item, a commercial cover addressed to France from a lumbering firm at Pac-Hin-Boun, 1903, bearing a corner card imprint of a fancy circular cachet of the "Société Anonyme des Étains Du Hin-Boun/Exploitation" and native script, with a picture of an elephant (used to work in the lumber camps) in the center. It took the letter from April 7 to April 23 to reach Saigon, showing the difficult transportation conditions in the area.—R. G. S.

68.) Madagascar and Indochina were practically the only colonies to continue regular use and printing of postal stationery after April 1927 when stocks in other colonies were burned. In 1924 and 1927 Madagascar issued some unusual envelopes (ACEP #s 17, 18, 23) with 25c and 50c vignettes of the filanzane stamp design (of 1908) but also bearing a printed rectangular box in the upper left corner inscribed with wording in French and native language to the effect that the envelope is not to be sold for more than 30c (#17) or 55c (#18), and containing a picture of a barefoot native mail carrier (piéton) carrying his mail baskets on a shoulder stick. Additional printed instructions are on the back, in both languages, advising that it is prohibited to put banknotes and negotiable cheques inside of unregistered letters. In 1931 and 1933 envelopes were issued with 50c vignettes of the Gallieni design type and a fancy allegorical picture (woman, airplane, and boat) in the upper left corner plus instructional inscriptions printed at bottom and on back similar to those on the 1927 issue. These are the most attractive of all colonies stationery. In 1927 there was a curious emergency issue of plain gray envelopes with 60c on 75c (surcharged) stamps affixed and another plain buff envelope inserted inside.—R. G. S.

69.) Mauretania was occupied and created a civil territory during 1904 and its first stamps issued in 1906. Covers from the 1904-06 period are rare.

We have a "forerunner" item, a postcard addressed to France with the 5c yellow-green Group-Type Senegal stamp cancelled in bright blue by a large double-circle cachet inscribed "Gouvernement Général de L'Afrique Occidentale Française" and in the center "Mauretanie/Saharienne". This may have been only an administrative cachet as no regular postmarks were issued prior to 1906.—R. G. S.

70.) Many collectors of 20th Century France tend to specialize on a single issue or stamp. For those interested thus in the Marianne de Gandon, LeBland gives an outline of all its collectible types and formats in an article in *Bull. Phil. du Midi* #260. An outline for a collection of the Marianne de Muller is given by Boblique, also in *BPM* #260, and the same author offers a similar analysis of the Marianne de Decaris in *Le Monde* for Dec. 1964. For the Blanc, Mouchon, Merson, Sower, and Pasteur types there is a very large literature, mostly in French, but R. Lesgor's book "France 20th Century Specialized" provides a very clear and good summary in English (indeed the only one) up to 1955. He has later studies on the Sowers in his *The French Specialist*, Vol. 4, nos. 1 and 2 (1962). For those who read French, Pierre de Lizeray's set of 8 books "Timbres de France," and 5 books "Timbres et Types" are highly recommended. Studies are under way on the Arc de Triomphe stamp—it is a very controversial subject—which when fully published we hope will definitively clarify the tremendous complexity of its types. Dr. R. Joany has published detailed studies of the Femme Fachi stamp and the Marianne and Coq of Algiers stamps.

71.) It is surprising that some common cancellation types of France of the 1875-1940 period are still not fully or correctly understood. For example, Dr. L. Goubin in a series of recent articles in *L'Echo* and *BPM*, has revealed some very curious and mystifying things about certain postmarks. The so-called "empreintes jumelées" or paired strikes of the circular-dated postmarks used for years at many larger postoffices (recettes principales) have been most puzzling. These pairs are fixed in duplex so that whatever the diameter of the two circles may be, their centers are always 28mm apart. The inscriptions in the two strikes are similar but may differ slightly in font; the orientation of one circle may be somewhat rotated with respect to the other. They are known from 1881 to very recent years (1948), but only from about 194 fairly large postoffices. Over many years of study the explanation has gradually come to light—they are machine cancellers made by Daguin (much earlier than anyone had ever supposed Daguin to be in this business), at the desire of the PTT expressed already in 1876 for a means to cancel the stamp and postmark the face of the cover at the same time in one stroke.

72.) Member Jean C. Smith informs us that in examining a quantity of France #27 (Scott), the 40c Empire laureated, for lined backgrounds, missing frames, etc., he discovered a plate flaw which possibly has not been reported (we have not checked the literature). On two copies he found a spike or line extending straight out from the tip of the Emperor's nose into the orange-colored background something like the famous "horn-on-the-nose" variety of the 20c laureated but not curved.

73.) Member Bertram Mendelsohn of Scotland, a specialist on Indochina, writes us that the small dots below the Grasset type of stamps which I mentioned in Item no. 26 of *For the Record* are actually initials of the designer and engraver, when examined with sufficient magnification.—R. G. S.

74.) In R. Lesgor's article in *FCP* #120, p. 42, he states that the "M.B."

type cancel (Fig. 9) was used at Wolverhampton (among other places)—Mr. Mendelsohn has kindly suggested that this must be a misidentification for Weymouth, as Wolverhampton is about 100 miles inland.

75.) Speaking of French 'paquebot' marks (see Item 62), a new machine-type of duplex illustrated "flamme" cancelling device for "paquebot" mail was introduced at Cherbourg in April 1963. But at the end of November 1963 it was withdrawn because the administration decided that it was inappropriate to marry a touristic French advertising slogan to a dated postmark intended for letters arriving from abroad. (The same reasoning had been used earlier to eliminate a coupling of the Nantes-Gare illustrated flamme intended for strictly advertising of Nantes to a postmark for the conveyor line Le Croizic a Nantes.) According to Seaposter #173, the 1963 Cherbourg "paquebot" mark was replaced with a new one in 1964 similar to the old type B52 of Studd having the circular dater inscribed "Cherbourg Pple/Manche" and the flamme of parallel lines two above and two below the word "PAQUEBOT". However, during much of 1964 the old type A532 of Studd or ordinary postmarks were used on paquebot mail at Cherbourg.—R. G. S.

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## MEMBERS APPEALS

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WANTED: Perfins of France and its former colonies, Monaco and Sarre; also on cover, slogan cancellations Type Daguin. Jan C. Prins, 120 West Northfield Road, Livingston, N. J. 07039 (Member 973).

WANTED: Yvert no. 145b (Scott #127, with broken shield) and Scott no. 254A of France, both used. I will give French colonies used, Yvert 1965 cat. values. G. R. Loisel, 88-11 34th Avenue, Jackson Heights, N. Y. 11372. (Member 877).

WANTED: North Viet-Nam 1945-46 provisional issues (overprints on Indochina 1941-45), also data about them as to printings, quantities, cancels, varieties, literature, etc. Irving Kopf, 9516 Ave. L, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11236 (Member 814).

WANTED: Stamps on postcards or envelope of the following: Annam "A&T" overprints, Port Lagos, Castellorizo, Diego Suarez, Grand Comore, Mayotte, Moheli, Nossi Be, and Ste. Marie de Madagascar as colonies. Will exchange other covers or purchase. Edward Hopps, 2246 Medill Street, 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, airmails, 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).