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PHILATELIST

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BALLOON POSTS OF FRANCE--1870-71

Some Identification Data--By A. S. Arnold (139)

(Editor's Note: We take great pleasure in presenting the following data compiled for us by Mr. Arnold. This valuable contribution was based on Mr. Arnold's very large collection brought together in many years of specialization in these fascinating documents of postal history.)

1. LE NEPTUNE, ascended Sept. 23, 1870, 8 A.M.; landed the same day at 11 AM at Craconville(Eure). Aeronaut; J.Durauf. Departure dates Sept.19-22. Identification is certain for covers with arrival postmark of Sept. 24 or 25.

2. LA VILLE DE FLORENCE(Città di Firenze), ascended Sept. 25, 11 A.M. Landed at Vernouillet(Seine et Oise)at 5 P.M. the same day. Aeronaut; Gabriel Mangin. Departure dates Sept. 23 and 24. Identification certain - arrival postmark Sept. 28.

3. LES ÉTATS UNIS, made up of two balloons - the NAPOLEON and HIRONDELLE, - ascended Sept. 29, at 10 A.M.; landed the same day, 1:30 P.M. at Magnanville-(Seine et Oise). Aeronaut; Louis Godard. Departure dates 25-28. Possible identification - postmark dated Sept. 29 or 30 (?).

4. LE CÉLESTE, ascended Sept. 30, 9:30 A.M.; landed the same day, 11:50 A.M. at Dreux(Eure-et-Loir). Aeronaut; Gaston Tissandier. Departure date, Sept. 29. Identification is certain - arrival dates Oct. 1-7.

5. UNNAMED BALLOON NO.1, not manned. Ascended Sept. 30 at noon. Possible identification: Postal cards (only) dated Sept. 27-29, without arrival postmarks. These cards fell into the hands of the Germans, and were subsequently sold by German dealers. Before the fall of this balloon, a bundle of cards had fallen out, were recovered by the French military authorities, and sent through by ballons montes.

6. L'ARMAND BARBÈS, ascended Oct. 7, at 11 A.M., landed the same day, 2:45 PM near Epineuse(Oise). Aeronaut; J. Trichet. Departure dates; Sept.30-Oct.6. Identification certain - arrival postmarks Oct. 8-11.

7. UNNAMED BALLOON NO. 2, ascended Oct.8, at 2:45 P.M. Landed the same day at Stains(Seine). No mail carried. Did not pass the besieged lines. Aeronaut; Racine.

8. LE WASHINGTON, ascended Oct.12, at 8 A.M., landed the same day, 11:30 AM, at Carnières, near Cambrai(Nord). Aeronaut; Bertaux. Departure dates; Oct.7-11. Identification; arrival postmarks Oct.13-18. Impossible to distinguish from those carried by the Louis Blanc, below. (Please turn page)

9. LE LOUIS BLANC, ascended Oct. 12 at 9 AM, landed the same day, at noon, at Béciers (Hainaut), Belgium. Aeronaut: Farcot. Departure dates and arrival postmarks same as #8, LE WASHINGTON. The two cannot be distinguished.

10. LE GODEFROY-CAVAIGNAC, ascended Oct. 14, at 10 A.M.; landed the same day at 2:45 P.M., at Brillion (Meuse). Aeronaut: Godard, Sr. Departure dates: Oct. 12-13. Arrival postmarks Oct. 16-21.

11. LE GUILLAUME TELL (or Christopher Columbus or Jean Bart No. 1) ascended Oct. 14 at 1 PM, landed the same day at 5 P.M., at Montpothier, (Aube). Has no departure postmark (dates of the letters should be Sept. 28-30). Usually has cancellation 4034 in diamond of dots. Arrival postmarks Oct. 16-22.

12. LE JULES FAVRE NO. 1, ascended Oct. 16, at 7:30 A.M.; landed the same day at noon, at Foix-Chapelle (Belgium). Aeronaut: Mutin-Godard. Departure dates, Oct. 14-15. Identification certain for arrival postmarks of Oct. 16-18.

13. LE JEAN BART NO. 2, ascended Oct. 16, 9:50 A.M.; landed the same day at 2:45 P.M. at Evrehelles, Belgium. Departure dates: Oct. 14-15; arrival postmarks Oct. 20-22.

14. LE VICTOR HUGO, ascended Oct. 18, 11:45 AM, landed the same day at 5:30 P.M., at Vic-sur-Aisne (Aisne). Aeronaut: Nadal. Departure dates: Oct. 16-17. Possible identification: arrival postmark of Oct. 19.

15. LE LAFAYETTE (or the République Universelle), ascended Oct. 19, at 9:10 AM, landed the same day at 11:30 A.M. near Mézières (Ardennes). Aeronaut: Jossec. Departure date, Oct. 18. Possible identification: arrival postmarks of Oct. 20-21.

16. LE GARIBALDI, ascended Oct. 22, 11:30 AM, landed the same day at 1:30 P.M. at Quincy-Segy (Seine et Marne). Aeronaut: Iglesia. Departure dates: Oct. 19-21. Possible identification: Oct. 23-28.

17. LE MONTGOLFIER, ascended Oct. 25, 8:30 AM; landed the same day at 11:40 AM at Heiligenberg (Alsace). Aeronaut: Hervé Sené. Departure dates: Oct. 22-23. Without arrival postmark. This mail was confiscated by the enemy, and the letters were subsequently sold by German dealers.

18. LE VAUBAN, ascended Oct. 27, 9 A.M. Landed the same day, 1 P.M., near Commercy (Meuse). Aeronaut: Guillaume. Departure dates, Oct. 24-26. No arrival postmarks, but the cancellation on the stamps are either a) Fresnes-en-Woëvre (Meuse) in double circle, Oct. 29, 1870; or b) 305 in diamond of dots. (Ed. "305" large numerals is Bar le Duc (Meuse))

19. LE COLONEL CHARRAS, ascended Oct. 29, at noon. Landed the same day, at 5 P.M., at Montigny (Haute-Marne). Aeronaut: Gilles. Departure dates, Oct. 27-29. Identification certain, arrival postmarks Oct. 30, Nov. 1.

20. LE FULTON, ascended Nov. 2, 8:30 AM, and landed the same day at 2:30 P.M., at La Jumellière (Marne-et-Loire). Aeronaut: Le Gloennec. Departure dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 1. Identification certain; arrival postmarks dated Nov. 3.

21. LE FERDINAND FLOCON, ascended Nov. 4, at 9 A.M., landed the same day at 4 P.M., near Chateaubriant (Loire-Inférieure). Aeronaut: Vidal-Loisset. Departure dates: Nov. 2-3. Identification certain; arrival postmarks dated Nov. 5-8.

22. LE GALILEE, ascended Nov. 4 at 2 PM, landed the same day at 6 P.M., near Chartres (Eure-et-Loir), and seized by the Prussians. Aeronaut: Husson. Departure dates: Nov. 2-3, no arrival postmarks. Stamps cancelled PLAR in diamond of dots.

23. LA VILLE DE CHÂTEAUDUN, ascended Nov. 6,

at 10 A.M.; landed the same day at 5 P.M. at Réclainville (Eure-et-Loir). Aeronaut: Bosc. Departure dates: Nov. 4-5. Possible identification: arrival postmarks of Nov. 7-8. Identification certain; stamps cancelled PLAR in diamond of dots, arrival postmarks Nov. 7-10.

24. LA GIRONDE, ascended Nov. 8, at 8:30 AM, landed the same day at 3:40 PM, at Gaudreville-la-Rivière (Eure). Aeronaut: Galley. Departure dates: Nov. 6-7. Identification certain, arrival postmarks Nov. 9-11.

25. LE DAGUERRE, ascended Nov. 12, at 9:15 A.M., landed the same day at 3:40 P.M. at Jossigny (Seine et Marne), and fell into the hands of the Prussians with four bags of letters, the fifth was thrown overboard, and found in the woods of Ferrières. Aeronaut: Jubert. The covers which were seized by the Prussians bore no arrival postmarks, and were subsequently sold by German dealers. Those rescued are identified by the departure dates of Nov. 8-11, bearing arrival postmarks of Nov. 22-30.

26. LE GÉNÉRAL ULRICH, ascended Nov. 18, at 11:15 P.M., landed the next day, at 8 A.M., at Luzarches (Seine et Oise). Aeronaut: Lemoine, Sr. Departure dates: Nov. 12-18. Identification certain for covers, with arrival postmarks of Nov. 20-21; or if the stamps are cancelled Luzarches (72) Nov. 20.

27. L'ARCHIMÈDE, ascended Nov. 21, at 1 A.M., landed the same day at 6:40 A.M., at Castelré (Netherlands). Aeronaut: J. Buffet. Departure dates: Nov. 19-20; identification certain for arrival postmarks dated Nov. 22-24.

28. LA VILLE D'ORLÉANS, ascended Nov. 24, at 11:40 P.M., landed the next day at Krodsherred (Norway) at 2:55 P.M. Aeronaut: Rolier. Departure dates, Nov. 23-24. Identification certain as follows: a) no arrival postmarks if addressed to Army men or prisoners of war, b) letters addressed to foreign countries have arrival postmarks Dec. 2nd to 6th, c) letters to persons in the uninvaded departments, with arrival postmarks Dec. 5-24, d) those bearing arrival marks of Dec. 22-24 are letters picked up at sea and forwarded through the French Consul at Mandal.

29. LE JACQUARD, ascended Nov. 28, 11 P.M., lost at sea near Plymouth, England. Aeronaut: Prince. Departure dates, Nov. 25-28. No arrival postmarks; or that of Falmouth (England) Dec. 2-3, '70.

30. LE JULES FAVRE NO. 2, ascended Nov. 30, at 11:30 P.M., landed the next day at 8:30 AM., at Belle-Ile-en-Mer (Morbihan). Aeronaut: Martin. Departure dates: Nov. 29-30. Identification certain; arrival postmarks, Dec. 2-5.

31. LE FRANKLIN, ascended Dec. 5, at 1 A.M., landed the same day at 8 A.M. near Nantes (Loire-Inférieure). Aeronaut: Marcia. Departure dates, Dec. 1-4. Identification certain; arrival postmarks of Dec. 5-6.

32. LE DENIS PAPIN, ascended Dec. 7 at 1 AM, landed the same day at 7 A.M. at Ferté-Bernard (Sarthe). Aeronaut: Domalin. Departure dates: Dec. 5-6. Possible identification, - arrival postmarks of Dec. 7.

33. L'ARMÉE DE BRETAGNE, ascended Dec. 7, at 6 A.M., landed the same day at 11 A.M. at Bouillé-Loretz (Deux Sèvres). Aeronaut: Sirel de Montchamps. Departure dates: Dec. 5 - 6. Arrival postmarks: Dec. 8-10.

34. LE GÉNÉRAL RENAULT, ascended Dec. 11, at 2:15 A.M., landed the same day at 5:30 A.M., at Baillolet (Seine-Inférieure). Aeronaut: Joigneirey. Departure dates Dec. 7-10. Identification certain: arrival postmarks Dec. 12-16.

35. LA VILLE DE PARIS, ascended Dec. 15, at 4:45 AM, landed the same day at 1 PM, at Wetzlar(Nassau). Aeronaut: Delamarne. Departure dates, Dec.11-13. No arrival postmarks. This correspondence was confiscated and subsequently sold by German dealers.

36. LE PARMENTIER, ascended Dec.17, at 1:15 AM, landed the same day, at 9 AM, at Gourgangon (Marne). Aeronaut: L.Paul. Departure dates: Dec.14-15. Probable identification; arrival postmarks - Dec. 28th to Jan. 2.

37. LE DAVY, ascended Dec.18 at 5 AM, landed the same day, at noon, near Nuits-Saint-Georges (Côte d'Or). Aeronaut: Chaumont. Departure dates: Dec.15-17. Identification certain: a) arrival postmarks of Dec.18-21 or b) stamps cancelled Beaune 1/18 Dec. 70.

38. LE GÉNÉRAL CHANZY, ascended Dec. 20, at 2:30 AM, landed the same day at 10:45 AM, near Rotenburg(Bavaria). Aeronaut: Verrecke. Departure date: Dec. 18. The correspondence was seized by the Prussians; they bear no arrival postmarks. The identification by departure date is certain.

39. LE LAVOISIER, ascended Dec.22, 2:30 AM, landed at 9 AM, at La Ménitrie(Maine-et-Loire). Aeronaut: Ledret. Departure dates: Dec.20-21. Possible identification; arrival postmark of Dec. 22.

40. LA DÉLIVRANCE, ascended Dec. 23, 4:30 AM, landed the same day at 11:45 AM, at La Roche-Bernard(Morbihan). Aeronaut: Gauchet. Departure date, Dec.22. Identification certain; arrival postmarks of Dec. 23-26.

41. LE TOURVILLE, ascended Dec.27 at 4 AM, landed the same day at 1 PM, near d'Eymoutiers (Haute Vienne). Aeronaut: Montet. Departure dates: Dec.23-26. Possible identification; arrival postmark of Dec.28 (or Dec.29 for localities in the North and Southeast).

42. LE BAYARD, ascended Dec.29, 4 AM, landed the same day at St.Julien des Landes (Vendée). Aeronaut: Reginensi. Departure dates Dec. 27-28. Identification possible; arrival postmarks of Dec. 29-30.

43. L'ARMÉE DE LA LOIRE, ascended Dec.31, 5 AM, landed 1 PM the same day at Montbizot in Sarthe. Aeronaut: Lembine, Jr. Departure dates: Dec.29-30. Identification certain; arrival postmarks Jan. 1-3, 1870.

44. LE MERLIN DE DOUAI, ascended Dec.31, at 4 AM; landed the same day at 11:45 AM, at Vierzon(Cher). Aeronaut: Tarbé. The aeronaut carried a few covers. All of them have the handstamp "Ballon Merlin de Douai, Cap. Grizeaut, Lieut. Tarbé." Only two such covers are known.

45. LE NEWTON, ascended Jan.4, 1870, at 4 AM, landed the same day, at noon, near Digny(Eure-et-Loir). Aeronaut: Ours. Departure dates: Dec. 31-Jan.3. Identification certain; arrival postmarks dated Jan. 8-9.

46. LE DUQUESNE, ascended Jan.9, at 3:15 AM; landed the same day at 3 PM, at Ludes(Marne). Aeronaut: Richard. Departure dates, Jan. 7-8. Probable identification; arrival postmarks of Jan. 20-22.

47. LE GAMBETTA, ascended Jan.10, 4 AM; landed the same day at 2:30 PM, at Ouanne, near d'Avallon(Yonne). Aeronaut: Duvivier. Departure date: Jan.9. Possible identification; arrival postmark of Jan. 10.

48. LE KEPLER, ascended Jan.11, at 3:30 AM, landed the same day at 10:15 AM, at Laval(Mayenne). Aeronaut: Roux. Departure date: Jan.10. Identification certain; arrival postmark of Jan. 12.

49. LE GÉNÉRAL FAIDHERBE, ascended Jan. 13,

At the time the Richelieu overprint came out we were more than suspicious due to the "fragrance" that clung to it. The Group promptly appointed a committee to get evidence. At the December meeting the evidence was not as yet complete, but there was enough for the membership to pass the following resolution: "In view of the facts in connection with the history of the Richelieu 1 franc 50 issue, it is at present the judgment of this society that this stamp is without standing or a legitimate and official postal issue."

This was passed without dissent and after thorough discussion. Now the evidence has poured in. We have received official letters from the French Delegation and from the Naval Commission in Washington condemning the "stamp" in strong language and asking that publicity be given.. to expose this fraud." And now a letter direct from the ship stating that the authorities on board deny that such stamp was ever authorized and saying that our letter was the first they had ever heard of it, and adding ".... it looks like a swindle."

These are some of the statements received so far. We regret that space prevents publishing the letters but we hope that soon you will be able to read them in the philatelic press.

List of New Members, etc. postponed to next issue.

at 3:30 AM, landed the same day at 2 PM, at Saint-Avit-de-Soulège(Gironde). Aeronaut: Van Seymortier. Departure dates: Jan.11-12. Identification certain; arrival postmark of Jan.14.

50. LE VAUCANSON, ascended Jan.15, at 3 AM; landed the same day at 10:15 AM, at Erquinghem-Lys(Nord). Aeronaut: Clariot. Departure date, Jan.13-14. Identification certain; Jan. 16-17 arrival postmarks.

51. LA POSTE DE PARIS, ascended Jan.18, at 3 AM, landed the same day at 10 AM, at Mercels near Vanraai(Netherlands). Departure dates: Jan. 15-17. Possible identification; arrival postmarks of Jan. 18 or 20.

52. LE GÉNÉRAL BOURBAKI, ascended Jan.20 at 5 AM, landed the same day at 2:15 PM, near Reims(Marne). Aeronaut: Th.Mangin, Jr. Departure dates, Jan.18-19. Possible identification the arrival postmarks of Jan. 20-21.

53. LE GÉNÉRAL DAUMESNIL, ascended Jan. 22, at 4 AM, landed at 8 AM the same day at Marchienne-au-Pont(Belgium). Aeronaut: Robin. Departure dates: Jan.20-21. Identification certain; arrival postmarks of Jan. 23.

54. LE TORRICELLI, ascended Jan.24, at 3 AM, landed the same day, at 11 AM, at Famechon, near Orléans(Oise). Aeronaut: Bely. Departure dates: Jan.22-23. Identification certain; arrival postmarks of Jan. 25 to 29.

55. LE RICHARD WALLACE, ascended Jan.27, at 3 AM, lost at sea in the Bay of Arcachon. Aeronaut: Lacaze. Departure dates Jan.24-26. Identification certain; a) arrival postmarks Feb.12 to Apr.14, b) stamps cancelled La Rochelle 1/13 Fév. 71; or La Tremblade 1/12 Fév. 71 PP.4. A number of covers were fished out of the sea. On most of them the stamps are missing, from contact with the water.

56. LE GÉNÉRAL CAMBRONNE, ascended Jan. 28, at 6 AM, landed the same day at 1 PM, near Mayenne(Mayenne). Aeronaut: Tristan. Departure date: Jan.27. Probable identification; arrival postmarks of Feb. 3-6.

KNOW YOUR FORGERIES

(Continued from Indo-China, Vol. III, p. 3)

The offices mentioned below, although listed by Scott under French Offices in China have actually no connection with the offices in China such as Peking, Shanghai, etc....but were under the administration of and used the basic stamps of Indo China. They are all closed except Kouang-Tcheou, which is a territory leased from China, including under this name several post offices.

Canton

1901-03-06 - There are forged surcharges for the first three issues -- particularly of the high values, and of the 5c dark green. Many are crude but a few are good enough to require expertization. All the errors on these issues are pure fantasies made only for collectors - they should not be collected, as the largest majority never saw a post office. They are not catalogued by Yvert, who warns against them. To avoid repetition this applies to all the errors on the early issues of the Indo-Chinese offices.

1919 - Forgeries of the piastres values - these exist for all the offices.

Hoi-Hao

1901-03 - Dangerous forgeries particularly of the first set and of the 15c blue. Expertize. Likewise Fournier forged surcharges on originals and on forgeries of the Groupe type (see General Issues).

1906-08 - Forgeries exist - 1919 - forged piastres values.

Kouang-Tcheou

1906 and 1919 - Forged surcharges - for the 75c and 1 fr. on Fournier forgeries of Groupe type. 1919 forged piastres values.

Mongtseu

1903-06-08 - Numerous false surcharges - on originals and on Fournier's forgeries of the Groupe type.

1908 - Forged surcharges exist. 1919-forged piastres values.

Pakhoi - Tchong-King - Yunnanfou

Same forgeries and remarks as for the preceding sets. In Tchong-King the small overprint on postage and on dues stamps is entirely unofficial. It was applied locally without any authorization from Indo-China; the stamps, however, were sold at the post office and have carried mail.

INDIA

1892-1907 - Groupe type - The whole set has been forged by Fournier (see General Issues). The forged cancellation is: double circle, 22 mm, PONDICHERY 1 FEVR 92 INDE.

1903 - Provisionals - Very dangerous forgeries, including varieties. Expertize.

1915-17 - Red Cross - Dangerous forgeries especially of the varieties.

1941 - Free French - Some highly questionable overprints and even more questionable varieties of these now being sold in New York. - They seem to have been made expressly at the demand of these dealers. Before spending any money for the support of these worthies, common sense would seem to require waiting for the end of the war when the status of these issues will be clarified.

GUINEA

1892-1900-12 - Groupe type. - The whole set has been forged by Fournier (see General Issues).

1906 - Balay type. - See characteristics of forgeries under General Issues. The forged cancellation accompanying both of these issues is: double circle, 23mm, inner circle interrupted,

KONAKRI 29 NOV 10 GUINEE FRANCAISE. The dates can be interchanged.

GUIANA

1886-88 - Forged surcharges are abundant and these stamps should be expertized.

1892 - Surcharged GUYANE - Dangerous forgeries exist, also Fournier's forgeries of the surcharge both on originals and on forgeries of the Dubois type (see General Issues). On these the forged cancellation is: CAYENNE 2 JUIN 92 GUYANE.

1892-1904-12 - Groupe type. - The whole set has been forged by Fournier (see General Issues).

1915 - Red Cross - Very dangerous and numerous forgeries especially of the very expensive varieties. Expertize.

GUADELOUPE

1884-1905 - The great multiplicity of surcharges and differences in types running into the many hundreds makes specialization in this colony absolutely necessary. No other colony presents such complexity and variety. Baron de Vinck's book should be consulted. The 1891 overprints on the Ceres type should be expertized including the varieties. There are forged overprints on originals and on Fournier forgeries (for characteristics of those of the Dubois and Groupe types, see General Issues). The forged cancellations accompanying these are: a) ST LOUIS 2 JUIL 91 GUADELOUPE; b) idem with 92; c) BASSE-TERRE 21 JUIN 92 GUADELOUPE; d) POINTE A PITRE 2^E/21 JANV 91 GUADELOUPE; e) idem with 92.

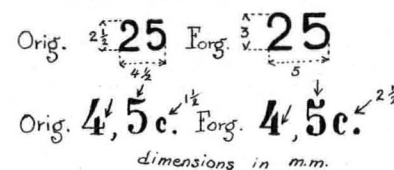
1892-1901-12 - Groupe type. - The whole set was forged by Fournier and these in turn received surcharges as mentioned above.

1876-79 - Postage Dues - Typographed locally and each stamp is different. - Outside of crude forgeries there are several other sets which are dangerous; a) forged by photogravure - the printing is defective and lacks sharpness, the edges being blurred; b) so-called reimpresions - in the originals there are 20 types and in these forgeries there are but 8 types. Ser-

rane says that the original typographic elements seem to have been used, but they were not put together properly and none of these 8 types correspond with any of the original types -- hence a Key or copy of the original setting is necessary and therefore expertization is necessary. In these forgeries the paper is whiter and thinner than in the originals; c) Fournier forgeries (see diagram). In the original 25 and 40 centimes the numerals are 2½ mm high; in the Fournier they are 3 mm. In the 40c, 15c and 30c originals, the "c" is only 1½ mm high whereas in the Fournier it is 2½ mm!

1903 - Postage Dues - Dangerous forgeries - but they do not deceive if compared with the original setting. Also the postage due stamp itself may be a forgery (see General Issues).

(To be continued)



WERE TELLING YOU

THAT THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE YOU WILL RECEIVE if this is marked in RED - so hurry up and pay your dues - \$2.00 for residents, \$1.00 for non-residents.

Please make sure your address is correct and includes postal districts where they exist as addressograph plates are to be used in the future.