

# WELCOME TO INTERPEX 1972

WHOLE NUMBER 147 (Vol. 28, No. 1)

January 1972



## France & Colonies Philatelist

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### THIS IS THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRANCE AND COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY

November marked the completion of thirty years of service to philately by the Society. The first meeting of seventeen collectors in New York City 39 years ago, forming the France and Colonies Group, began a tradition of study and publication which is continued today by more than 400 world-wide members of the Society. Our journal, the Philatelist, is the principal English-language publication for collectors of the French community. Both members and guests will enjoy the extensive exhibits and special events sponsored by the Society at INTERPEX. A letter is being sent to all members on the program and further details will be available at our booth. We hope many will participate in the activities. Guests are cordially invited to join us; information on the Society will be supplied by our representatives at the booth.

## AN UNUSUAL BALLON MONTE

By Raymond Gaillaguet



Shown here, a cover from the Siege originating Rue d'Enghien (Paris Star 4) on September 23, 1870. Passing thru London, October 16, 1870 and arriving in San Francisco in November 1870. It is addressed to the Rothschild banking correspondent in that city. The unusual feature of this Ballon letter is that it is franked with two 80c of the "Rothschild Issue." The Paris date seems to indicate that this letter left on the "Ville de Florence" balloon.

The authenticity of this letter is challenged on the basis of the double rate of postage (80c to the U. S. being the usual rate), the late passage in London for the "Ville de Florence" flight and the use of the Rothschild issue.

- 1) The delay in departure is explained in R. Amici's article on "La Ville

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**All contributions** to and questions concerning the contents and policy of this magazine should be sent to the Editor:

Robert G. Stone, P. O. Box 264, Fairfield, Pa. 17320

de Florence." He states that the lightest letters were sent out first (120 kg. in 3 bags).<sup>2</sup> Then, he further states, "Letters posted at the start of the Siege and sent out after a delay, were those not conforming to the weight regulation of the Decree of the 21st of September." This would explain the late passage date. One of five later balloons could have been used: The "Armand Barbes" (Oct. 7), the "Washington/Louis Blanc" (Oct. 12), or the "Godefroy Cavaignac/Jean Bart" (Oct. 14). All could have carried mail passing thru London on the sixteenth.

2) The use of the Rothschild issue, which is unique on a balloon. It cannot be the colonial issue which was not issued until 1872 and is darker than the Laureated issue. In 1869 the Rothschild issue was printed imperforate as a special favor to the banker. L. Meinertzbagen, in Kohl's "Handbook," Vol. VII, No. 4, p. 51, states that only the 20c is known postally used, on letters addressed to Lebaudy. However, the "Lebaudy" is not a Rothschild, but rather an imperf variety distributed by mistake in the Nord region and in Nancy. It is more of the bleu laiteu (milky blue) shade than the true Rothschild. During the siege, at a time of great stamp shortage, it is not inconceivable that the Rothschild bank would use some of their special issue, which was readily available to them, to write to their correspondant bank.

Thus, it is not impossible to have a ballon with both a double franking and the Rothschild issue on this particular piece.

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1. Expertized by Académie de Philatélie, Paris, 9 July 1954, #1689.
  2. R. Amici, "La Ville de Florence," *Revue des PTT de France*, No. 6, 1951, pp. 15-23 (with my special thanks to E. Cohn for having brought this article to me attention).
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## COMMENTS ON THE OMNIBUS STAMPS OF FRENCH COLONIES

Between 1931 and 1960 the Colonies (and Overseas Territories) had 17 commemorative issues consisting of uniform design(s) for all or a group of colonies, not counting the Vichy sets which were for practical purposes not really "issued" in the colonies. Since 1960 a number of commemorative designs (over a dozen) issued for use in the Overseas Territories were at the same time issued either in France or in some of the African republics formerly colonies. All these issues were, of course, put out mainly to please collectors or to make money off them (whichever way you prefer to look at it) and the larger part of the printings sold went into philatelic hands, in mint form or used on first-day covers, maximum cards or in sheets cancelled to order. Usually the stocks of these stamps left in the postoffices or at the Paris Agence after a certain lapse of time were withdrawn from sale and destroyed. There was a good deal of speculation in them, especially in the pre-War period, some of it scandalous (see FCP #135, pp. 9-11), which tended to make the mark-up very high for awhile until the fever wore off and prices declined to reasonable levels, whereby a lot of speculators and collectors lost money. After 30 years some of these stamps have not recovered the market price they once briefly had. In the sets with more than one denomination usually the quantities printed of some denominations were much less or much more than of others.

Since the majority of collectors of French colonies are not specialists but fill the spaces in printed albums, the main philatelic trading in the commemoratives is by complete mint sets; many catalogs quote prices for them by mint sets and these are a regular staple in auctions and retail trade. The market value of the commemoratives has grown slowly and steadily over the years in tune with the general rise in stamp values and inflation, but only some of the pre-war sets have yet shown any very marked appreciation over face, because of their age and/or the relatively small quantities printed. There are no rarities except some errors in the 1931 sets and in the souvenir sheets of 1937; otherwise none of these issues are so scarce they cannot readily be found on the market any day of the week.

The advanced or specialist collectors, however, are likely to be more interested in information about the status of these issues used, cancelled, and on cover; and of course the topical collectors evaluate them solely on the subject matter of the designs (which is very diverse). Cancelled stamps are catalogued with some exceptions at the same price as mint, but that does not necessarily mean they are equally easy to obtain. The Curie, Revolution and 1937 souvenir sheets are apparently scarcer cancelled and most of the cancelled ones are CTO. In order to meet the demand for "used" copies, which has tended to exceed the supply of commercially-used copies, dealers and collectors sent quantities of all the issues out to the colonies to be cancelled on philatelic covers or in mint sheets. The result is that a large proportion, and in some cases the majority, of used copies have philatelic cancels, often dated a long time after the period when they were on sale in the postoffices. First-day covers, with or without special cancels (available only 1950's on), were generally plentiful at the time of issue but years after may become rather hard to find, even though the demand is not great and they do not bring excessive prices. However, FDCs of some pre-War sets were not numerous and may someday become a "good property." The 1931 sets, surprisingly, though printed in small quantities of 30-40 thousand per stamp, were much used commercially and some catalogs price many of the stamps cheaper used.

Commercial or non-philatelic use of the commemoratives was rather limited for some issues, notably of the Antilles Tricentenary, Curie, Revolution, Entre-Aide Francaise, Oeuvres Sociales F.O.M., Centenary of the Médaille Militaire, and most of the 1960-69 issues. The Revolution series, probably on account of the high surtax, are very rare commercially used on cover. The surtax issues were naturally unpopular for such use, and the face values of some series did not correspond to common rates. Overall the commercial use was restricted arbitrarily by the policy of the administration to sell the bigger part of the printings through the Agence in Paris; and of those stocks sent to the colonies often only a few of the larger postoffices had any to sell and of these a large part might be bought by local collectors and saved mint. A collection of the commemoratives on commercial covers is therefore very interesting and somewhat unusual; we have found quite a few commercial covers of the 1931, 1937 and 1939 Expo sets, the René Caillié, Eboué, 1946 Victory, Chad-to-Rhine, 75th Anniv. of UPU, 1954 Libération, and FIDES sets; the others are difficult.

Judged as to design and quality of production, they are a mixed bag. All of the commemoratives were recess printed except the Entre Aide (helio), and from 1950 on they are also usually multicolored. These are plus points. But unfortunately the designs are rather undistinguished in most cases, especially the symbolic ones. The 1931, 1935, 1937, 1939, Chad-Rhine and F.I.D.E.S. are the best, and artist-engraver Decaris was responsible for a number of these.—R.G.S.



## THE PALMS STAMPS ("PALMIERS") OF FRENCH WEST AFRICA

Robert G. Stone

In 1906 an omnibus set of 4 designs (3 postage, 1 dues) was issued for all the French West African colonies. The lower denominations in the Captain Faidherbe design are fairly common on commercial covers and postcards; the design is rather crowded and banal. The high denominations in the Dr. Ballay design are somewhat scarce both mint and used and practically impossible to find properly or improperly used on cover—little mail required such high postage. Many jokes have been made about Dr. Ballay's bald head and vacant expression, and the topless, pot-carrying negress behind him.

The middle denominations are in the palm-tree design—meritorious for its simplicity and the brooding atmosphere (the effect of stillness before a storm). Most of these denominations are printed on colored papers and with the colony name printed separately in a contrasting color, enhancing their attractiveness. Many young collectors of several generations ago were attracted by the "palmiers"—Count de Pomyers in his book on Senegal stamps mentions that they induced many youngsters in France into collecting French colonies and he himself recalled the sentimental tenderness he felt for this stamp in the memories of his youth. (We have given a more extended appreciation of this aspect of the palms stamps in our serial on French Colonial pictorials in *Essay-Proof Journal*, #110, July 1971, p. 71.)

The palmiers\*, once common, are now not so easy to come by as singles though they are a staple on the market in France as part of complete mint sets of the 1906 issue for the FWA colonies. They are attractive on covers. As the middle denominations correspond to the regular rates for foreign destinations and registry, commercial covers are relatively obtainable. Their scarcity depends more on the short period of years (1906-13) they were current. They were pretty well used up by 1914 and combinations with later issues are singularly rare (though common with earlier issues).

The 20c is not common on cover, as it was used mainly on double or triple-weight internal mail and letters to France. The 25c is commonest, the basic UPU rate for the letter to a foreign country. The 30c is not common, seen mostly in combinations or on registered letters. The 35c is rather common from some colonies for the basic registered letter rate to France. The 40c for double-weight foreign and some registered letters, as well as the 45c on registered letters, are difficult on cover. The 50c did not correspond to any common rate and is seen mainly on double-weight foreign letters, and in combinations on heavy registered letters. The 75c is scarce on cover, mainly philatelic use, though it could serve for heavy and money letters.

The palmiers are not the best values on which to look for cancels of small postoffices—the 5c and 10c Faidherbe are the ones for that.

Palmiers are not equally common or scarce in all the colonies as some colonies were less populated and had less mail, or ordered fewer stamps, but the differences are not very great on the whole. Dahomey and Mauretania are generally catalogued about double the others. Haut Senegal et Niger are commoner than might be expected, perhaps because their period of use was almost 2 years longer than in the other colonies.

Certain values of particular colonies are especially scarce:— the 35c of Dahomey and Senegal and the 25c of Haut Senegal et Niger are scarce mint but not used, indicating a heavy use on mail. The 20c and 30c of Mauretania,

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\*In France the term "palmiers" has come to be applied to the whole issue including all three designs.

the 20c and 45c of Ivory Coast, the 45c of Senegal and 50c of Guinea are scarce both mint and used, presumably because less were printed. The 30c Mauretania is said to be scarce because much of the printing was lost in a shipwreck.

Ivory Coast, Dahomey and Guinea were not issued any 40c at all as some peculiarity of their rate or mail structure did not require much use of it. Only one item of postal stationery with the palms vignette was issued—the 25c envelope of Guinea; it is not scarce mint but rare used.

## FRANCE NEW ISSUES OF 1971

(Continued from FCP #145, p. 59)

- #24. 3 July at Dole (Jura), general sale on 5 July. 0.65F Dole. Recess. Black, yellow ocher, violet. Designed and engraved by Haley. 50 stamps per sheet. Large vertical format.
- #25. 3 July at Riquewihr (Ht.-Rhin), 5 July gen. 0.90F Riquewihr. Recess. Brown, ocher, green. Des. and engr. Lacaque. 50/sh. Vert.
- #26. 10 July at Paris, 12 July gen. 0.65F Prise de la Bastille 14 July 1789. Recess. Bistre, violet, blue. Des./engr. Decaris. 25/sh. Horiz.
- #27. 28 Aug. at Paris, 30 Aug. gen. 0.90F 59e Conférence de l'Union Interparlementaire Recess. Marine blue. Des./engr. Decaris. 50/sh. Horiz.
- #28. 18 Sept. at Valmy (Marne), 20 Sept. gen. 0.45 Bataille de Valmy 20 Sept. 1792. Recess. Red bistre, sepia, blue. Des./engr. Decaris 25/sh. Horiz.
- #29. 16 Oct. at Paris, 18 Oct. gen. 0.90F Chambres de Métiers 1931-1971. Recess. Violet, red. Des./engr. Decaris. 50/sh. Horiz.
- #30. 16 Oct. at Biache-Saint-Vaast (Pas-de-Calais) and at Bourg-en-Bresse (Ain), 18 Oct. gen. 0.50+0.10F General Délestraint. Recess. Deep violet, lilac. Des. and engr. Pheulpin. 50/sh. Horiz.
- #31. 16 Oct. at Blois (Loiret-Cher), 18 Oct. gen. 0.50+0.10F Robert-Houdin. Recess. Deep blue, blue green. Des./engr. Pheulpin 50/sh. Horiz.
- #32. 6 Nov. at Paris, 8 Nov. gen. 0.60F Caméléon (Ile de la Réunion) Heliogravure. Green, bistre, black, yellow. Des. Lambert. 50/sh. Horiz.
- #33. 9 Nov. all p.o.'s Four stamps and mid-label in strip. Each 0.50F General De Gaulle. Recess. Black, blue, red. Two des. by Betemps and engr. by Lecaque; two des./engr. by Bequet. 5/sh. vertical format.
- #34. 13 Nov. at Paris, 15 Nov. gen. 0.45F Cent Cinquantenaire de L'Académie Nationale de Médecine. Recess. Deep violet, light violet. Des./engr. Bequet. 25/sh. Horiz.
- #35. 11 Dec. at Tournous (Saone-et-Loire) and Royan (Charente-Maritime), 13 Dec. gen. Two stamps: 0.35F+0.10F, 0.50F+0.10F. Paintings of J.-B. Greuze: "Jeune Fille au Petit Chien" and "L'Oiseau Mort." Recess. Blue violet, red, and purple and red. Des. and engr. Gandon. 50/sh vert., and booklets of 8 (4 each). (For benefit red cross.)

## Andorra

- #4. 28 Aug. at Andorre-La-Vieille, 30 Aug. gen. 0.90F Encamp—Lac D'Engolasters. Recess. Green, blue, bistre. Des./engr. Gandon. 25/sh. Horiz.
- #5. 18 Sept. at Andorre-La-Vieille, 20 Sept. gen. Three stamps, 0.30, 0.50, and 0.90F Retable de Saint Jean de Caselles. Recess. Light green, bistre, deep green; sepia, orange, purple; blue, violet, black. Des./engr. Combet. 10/sh. Vert.

## NOTES ON THE USAGE OF THE ALLEGORICAL GROUP TYPE ("PEACE & COMMERCE") STAMPS OF FRENCH COLONIES

Robert G. Stone

In our extended article on the Group Type of colonies ("Amer. Phil. Congress Book 1962," pp. 67-100) we had a few remarks to make on the usage of these stamps, with further notes in FCP #118, pp. 2-5. These issues, long unpopular because of their unattractive character, are now coming more and more into their own with colonies specialists. Good covers are particularly in demand and some uses are especially desirable. In such a large field there are common uses and rare ones. Some discrimination among all this material is necessary. The following observations from our experience may be of interest in this connection.

As stamps off cover, the scarcity of "used" (i.e., cancelled) copies is about the same as mint ones though the cancellations may often be "to order" or philatelic. Some denominations which are not especially scarce cancelled off cover are very rarely seen on cover, and then mostly on philatelic covers. The 35, 45, 75, 2Fr and 5Fr are in this category. These were values which the rates seldom called for, or were in force only a short time (35c and 45c, e.g.). We have never seen a 45c, 2Fr, or 5Fr properly used. Those of the color changes of 1900-08 that were printed in small quantities (10,000 or less) and now have high catalog values are rare on commercial covers too. Even the 20, 30, 50, and 1Fr denominations are more or less scarce on cover. The 20c and 30c as singles did not correspond to any common rates and were mostly used in combinations or multiples; the 50c and 1Fr served on heavy letters and registered mail. The 40c is rare on cover before 1900, but is seen thereafter frequently as a single on registered letters to France.

Naturally the issues that were superseded after a short time are very difficult to obtain on cover (or even off) used in the proper period. This applies to Golfe de Bénin, Sénégal et Niger, Nossi Bé, Obock, Diego Suarez and Ste. Marie, though they were used philatelically for many years afterwards and are very much commoner thus.

Mixed frankings with later issues are uncommon (for reasons not clear to us), except for Obock used with Djibouti or Somali Coast and for Madagascar dependencies used with (and in) Madagascar. The postal stationery, which is mostly common unused, is generally scarce used and especially if really commercially used. Used 10c postcards and the 5c, 10c, 15c and 25c envelopes used are frequently seen, but the reply cards and letter cards are difficult to get properly used. Custom among postal stationery collectors dictates that reply cards must be collected se-tenant and letter cards with the perforated margins intact—which poses a problem with used items as the commercially used reply card must be detached and the receiver of a letter card has to tear off the margins to open the letter.

The 1c, 2c, and 4c could prepay as singles some printed matter rates but one rarely sees them thus; they are common in multiples and combinations to prepay 5c or higher rates, chiefly on postcards and newspapers.

Thus by process of elimination we come down to the fact that the 5, 10, 15 and 25c values were the only ones commonly used as singles on cards and covers. The 15c used as a single, however, is not common until after 1900.

Of course certain small colonies had little commercial mail and any Group Type covers from them are scarce:— Ste. Marie, Mohéli (really rare), Gd. Comorre, Anjouan, and Mayotte. Guiana and Gabon are also scarce. The stamps

of the dependencies of Madagascar were regularly sold off in postoffices of Madagascar after the dependencies were merged with it in 1911. Rare and desirable are the uses of the Diego Suarez stamps in Nossi Bé and Ste. Marie in the brief period they were administratively attached to D. S. (1892-94).

Looking at the subject from the point of view of categories of use rather than particular colonies, we should note that usage from small postoffices, with special postmarks of railroad, French-seaport ("maritime"), riverboat, and foreign-"paquebot" types, are always interesting and desirable if not rare. The "Corr. d'Armées" postmarks are also much sought for. In these categories availability depends on the colony as some had no such marks or services. Thus the foreign "paq" marks are frequent on St. Pierre, Guadeloupe, Martinique and coastal West African colonies, and very occasional on Tahiti, Oceania, Obock-Somali Ct., Reunion, Indochina, India, Madagascar and Guiana.

Use in neighboring colonies is sometimes found in West and Equatorial Africa, Guadeloupe, and Martinique—accidental and usually tolerated by the authorities. Indochinese stamps were used in the Indochinese offices in China prior to and concurrently with the overprinted issues.

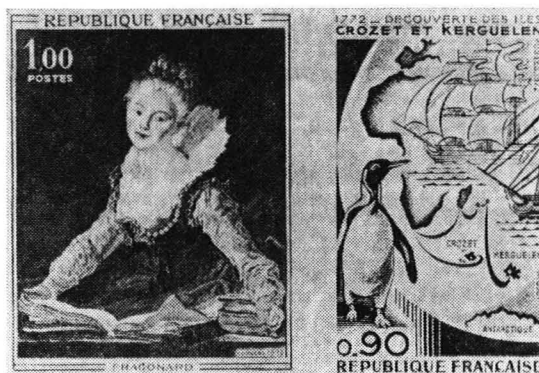
Occasional copies are seen used as substitute for dues stamps (canc. "T").

Whether the overprinted Group Type stamps are to be considered with the unoverprinted ones is an arbitrary decision for each collector to make for himself. It is to be noted that the overprints of the 1900-06 period were in most cases quite unnecessary and their use if any was very largely philatelic. The red-cross overprints of 1914-17 while legitimate in intent were flagrantly abused and often the surtax was accepted to prepay postage contrary to regulations. The 1912 overprints of "05" and "10" are not easy to find properly used as singles on cards and printed matter but seem to be relatively common on commercial mail in multiples to make up 15c and 25c rates. The parcels-post overprints were unnecessary and cannot be found properly used because they were affixed to a form which was retained by the postoffice and not received by the recipient of the package. They were accepted, however, on covers to prepay ordinary postage (usually philatelic).

## THE STAMP PROGRAM FOR 1972

The plans for the 1972 stamp issues of France, Andorra and Reunion were announced by the Minister of PTT at the 25th Salon Philatélique d'Automne in Paris, as follows (some additional ones are often added later):

- I. Stamps With Surtax (semipostals)—a total of 9:
  - a) Journée du Timbre (1 stamp)—"Facteur Rural a Bicyclette, 1894"
  - b) Celebrated Personnages (6 stamps):
    - Chomedey de Maisonneuve (1612-76), founder of Montreal
    - Admiral De Grasse (1722-88), naval officer
    - Théophile Gautier (1811-72), author
    - Aristide Bergès (1833-1904), engineer
    - Louis Blériot (1872-1936), aviator
    - Edouard Belin (1876-1963), physician
  - c) Red Cross Series (2 stamps and booklets)—two celebrated physicians, Baron Desgenettes (1762-1837) and Francois Broussais (1772-1838)



## II. Stamps Without Surtax (26 stamps):

- a) Art Series (4 stamps):  
Fragonard's "L'Étude," Maitre de Moulins' "Pierre de Bourbon  
Présenté par Saint Pierre," Monet's "Femmes au Jardin," and  
one to be chosen later
- b) History of France Series (3 stamps):  
Directoire: Incroyables et Merveilleuses  
Bonaparte at Pont d'Arcole  
L'Expédition d'Égypte
- c) Europa Series (2 stamps): Common symbol, and Cathedral of Aix-  
La-Chapelle
- d) Tourism Series for regular use (4 stamps):  
Chateau de Bazoches du Morvand (Nièvre)  
Abbaye de Charlieu (Loire)  
Cathedral Saint-Just at Narbonne (Aude)  
Scene of Solonge
- e) Commemorative and Miscellaneous (13 stamps):  
Winter Olympic Games at Sapporo, Japan  
Olympic Games at Munich  
Championships of the world in cycling (Marseille and Gap)  
200th Anniv. of the discovery of Crozet and Kerguelen Is.  
National Congress of French Phil. Societies, Saint-Brieuc  
Protection of Nature: Salmon, and Grand-Duc (2)  
Newfoundland sailing ship (Grand Banks)  
Year of walking tours in France  
World Day of Health (cardiology)  
20th Anniv. of the National Union of Associations of Blood Donors  
for Benefit of PTT  
21st World Congress of Internationals of PTTs, Paris  
Airmail stamp—Hélène Boucher and Maryse Hilsz

## Andorra: (9 stamps):

Europa (2); Munich Olympic Games, Protection of Nature (eagle), 3 more  
altar pieces from Saint Jean de Caselles, Gen. DeGaulle (2).

## CURRENT JOURNAL ARTICLES

### La Philatélie Française

- #213, June 1971: Joany: "Nomenclature: Colis Postaux" (cont.); "Vielles Provinces méconnues: la Saintonge"; Poskin and Houlteau: "La Ligne France-Madagascar ou Ligne Dagnaux"; DeWailly: "Collection des empreintes de machines à affranchir" (cont.).
- #214, July-Aug. 1971: "Grande Pêche" (flamme); "Les communications de Jersey avec le Continent pendant la greve postale Britannique"; DeWailly: "La collection de empr. de machines à affranchir" (end).
- #215, Sept. 1971: "Les nouveaux tarifs du régime international"; Joany: "Le 40c Ronchamps essai de mise en point"; Houlteau: "La ligne France-Madagascar" (cont.); Joany: "Nomenclature: colis postaux" (cont.).
- #216, Oct. 1971: Malnoy: "Les timbres coupés de Sept. 1871"; Joany: "Nomenclature" (cont.).

### Philatélie

- June 1971: "Les marques de censure de la guerre 1939-45"; Samouël: "Cartes postales et enveloppes de l'Amitié franco-russe"; "les timbres poste n'ont-ils pas besoin de savants?"; "Europa 1971: un faux pas du Ministre?"; "Les cinq timbres de la nouvelle série touristique"; "Après la guerre et la commune: une paix qu'il faut payer cher"; "L'aviation et l'aérophil. sont nées au meeting aérien de Reims."
- July-August 1971: "Un triptyque pour le Général de Gaulle"; "La contre-révolution postale 1971 au Min. de postes"; "Inexactitude sur le timbre Farman"; "Monaco reporté son émission Europa du 3 Mai-6 Sept."; "Le clown de Roault ressemble-t-il à l'artiste?"; "Un bureau de dépêches aux Rochers tenu par Mme de Sevigné"; "La poste au Théâtre"; "L'Afrique protégée les fêtes sauvages"; Parlange: "Des pontons de France à la Nouvelle Calédonie avec les Communards"; "Notre Dame de Paris sur les timbres"; Leblanc: "Les timbres de poste aérienne de Madagascar 1935-43."
- Sept. 1971: Bouttes: "Documents postaux et militaires des Forces Françaises Libres"; Chapier: "Les émissions locales et générales des Nouvelles Hébrides"; Huot: "La surcharge de Saint Nazaire"; "Histoire de France en timbres, illustration pour manuel de classes primaires"; "Après l'Année Terrible la colonisation veut la France"; "Les timbres des Etablissements de l'Inde."
- Oct. 1971: Bouttes: "Documents—" (cont.); "La poste et le télégraphe le Chemin des Tuilleries sous Nap. I pendant le Cent-Jours sous Louis XVIII, Charles X et Louis-Philippe"; "Le facteur, héros populaire oublié, inspirait les refrains du XIX Siècle"; "Obock ouvre aux Français les routes de l'Abyssinie—timbres d'Obock"; "La poste dans le Maine—c'est un pharmacien du Mans qui en 1870 l'organisa."

### Indo China Philatelist

- Vol. 1, #4, July 1971: Mendelsohn: "Saigon Fair Issue of Indochina"; McGowan: "Admiral Rigault de Genouilly" (Sc. Type #A37).

### Feuilles Marcophiles

- #185, 3rd Trim. 1971: Noël: "Les marques fr. de Breme"; Domenech: "Le rattachement de la Savoie à la France (1860)—ses conséquences pos-



tales"; DeFontaines: "Le tarif de changes des monnaies étrangers en 1814"; Rois: "Les marques d'essai de tri automatique dans la région Parisienne"; Cuny: "Les prisons de Paris" (end serial); Chapier et Lejeune: "Les bureaux spéciaux et franchises, les marques d'entrée en France"; Lautaine: "Les accidentés d'aviation."

#### Postes et Telecommunications

#189, Sept. 1971: "L'An I de la Normalisation."

#### Philatelic Magazine

v. 79, #9, June 1971: Pearson: "A new light on accountancy markings."  
v. 7, #10, July 1971: Harris: "Private posts of the Paris Commune."

#### Cartophilie (117 Blvd. St. Germain, Paris 6)

#211, June 1971: DeLulle: "La Carte Postale française est elle octogenaire ou centenaire?"

#### Le Monde des Philatelistes

#235, Sept. 1971: Rouques: "La roulette du 0.40 Ronchamp"; Savelon: "Les élections présidentielles — Versailles 1873-1963, Rectificatifs".  
"Thématique—La Provence et la Corse (II)"; Audebert: "Le Beptom" (begin serial).

#236, Oct. 1971: Savelon: "Les Expos Phil. Intern. en France" (begin); Joany: "Les surtaxes de la Poste Aérienne" (begin); "La France thématique—oblit. Provence et la Corse" (begin); Ginestet: "Les cartes-lettre et les enveloppes" (begin); DeLizeray: "Le 0.25 Coq fluorescent."

#### L'Echo de la Timbrologie

#1413, Sept. 1971: Mazabrey: "Reimpressions et dangereuses falsifications de l'émission d'Alsace-Lorraine de 1870-71"; De Lizeray: "Les carnets de timbres de France"; Lebland: "Application des tarifs internationaux au Maroc 1902-52."

#1414, Oct. 1971: "Les nouveau catalogues"; Deloste: "Le timbre type le plus rare" (15c lined sower rotary pr.); Brun: "Curieuse utilisation des timbres-poste au Type Sage"; Schutz: "Concorde a travers les timbres at les oblit." (end).

#### Bulletin de la Société des Amis du Musée Postal

#34, 2nd Trim. 1971: Boussac: "Versailles et le Dept. de Seine et Oise en 1870-71"; E. M. Cohn: "La ville de Paris en Prusse—souvenirs du Siege 1870-71"; Joany: "Un essai de forme particuliere (type Blanc 1906)".

#### Le Collectionneur Lyonnais

#11, July 1971: Francou: "Les essais de la 1<sup>er</sup> émission Semeuse lignée"; Charmonnier: "Plaidoyer pour la marcophilie moderne"; Gautier: "Les services ambulants de 1925 a nos jours."

#### Railway Philately

#5, 1971: Hart: "Railways of the Colonies" (thematic).

#### Deutsche Zeitung für Briefmarkenkunde

1970, #7: "Französischen Besatzungszone—weiterer Druckdaten nach 2<sup>o</sup> Jahren"

1970, #12: "Dahomey—block mit deutscher Inschrift"; Schmitt: "T.A.A.F. die französischen Gebiete am Sudpol"

1970, #22: "Französische Kolonien."

#### Die Sammlerdienst

1971, #5: "Die Kurierposten nach dem 2. Weltkrieg."

**Deutschland-Sammler**

- 1970, #3: Salomon: "Wohnungsbauabgabe (Fr. Occ. Zone of Germany)"  
 1970, #4: Tust: "Der Kessel von Saint-Nazaire 1945."

**Berichte für Kolonial-Briefmarken-Sammler**

- 1966, #38: Fontane: "Buar 3.11.14" (Cameroon); "Die deutschfranzösische Grenzexpedition" (Cameroon).

**Berner Briefmarken Zeitung**

- 1970, #9: "Sage Type IC schwarz auf preussischeblau."

**Merkur Prag**

- 1970, #10: Brendl: "Die ballon post 1870-71—Geschichte einer ballon-post Briefes."

**Briefmarkenpost**

- 1970, 10: Paetzold: "Pariser Ballonpost vor 100 Jahren."

**Nederlandsch Maandblatt voor Philatelie**

- 1970, #9: Krijff: "Ballons montés"

**De Postzegel**

- 1970, #281: Vermeer: "Die Postzegels van de algemene Uitgiften van de Franse Kolonien."

**Die Sammler Lupe**

- 1970, #9: Ein reizvolles Sammelgebiet—Feldpostkarten mit Fahnenemblemen (1870-71)"  
 1971, #1: "Die Post im Krieg 1870-71—Feldpost Karten mit Fahnenemblemen."

**Mijn Stokpaardje**

- 1970, #6: "Stempel NIZZA MARITT."

**Arge Studiems**

- 1970, #s 7 and 8: Arge: "Le régime des double affranchissement Franco-Allemand de 1871-72" illustr. (In French and in German.)

**Documents Philatéliques**

- No. 47, Tome X, 1st Trim. 1971: Joany: "Les tarifs avortés de 1877"; Magné: "Le cachet de fortune de Cussey-sur-l'Oignon"; Dutripon: "Le précurseurs des timbres préoblitérés"; DeLizeray: "Les millesimes des préos,—Postes Paris et Postes France"; DeLizeray: "Timbres demonetisés"; Leblanc: "Les deux types du 10c+5c croix rouge définitif de 1914-16"; Naudet: "Pigeongrammes"; DeFontaines: "Le pays de Montbéliard."

**SPA Journal**

- Nov. 1971: E. M. Cohn: "Siege of Paris."

**War Cover Bulletin**

- Dec. 1971: Wager: "Romance of war-cover collecting"; Shelly: "The French Exped. Force to Spain 1823 to 1828."

**Cahiers d'Études Postales et Numismatiques (112 le Rieux Tord, F19-St.-Pontaleur-de-Larce)**

- No. 13, 1971: "La poste en Périgord"; "Trois siècles de marques postales à Villefranche"; "Extrait de correspondance Havas 1870"; "Correspondent postaux de Lot-et-Garonne"; "Les émissions de deuil Allemandes en 1919"; "Affranchissement de fortune en Indochine—1916."

**Le Philographe**

- #29 Sept. 1971: "Les drapeaux"; "Mécanotélie."

**Bulletin de la Société Intern. d'Histoire Postale**

- #15, 1969: Bouerat: "Les postes et télégraphes en Haute Volta".  
 #16/17, 1971: Bouerat: "Les origines des postes et télégraphes au Dahomey."

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

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The two Red Cross stamps for 1971 were issued on December 13; the subjects were two works of Greuze: 0.30+0.10 fr "Jeune Fille au Petit Chien" and 0.50+0.10 Fr "L'Oiseau Mort." There were also booklets of 4 each sold only at a unit price of 4 Fr. The engraving was by Gandon. Copies were overprinted CFA for use in Reunion.

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Recent withdrawals from sale: 22 Oct.: Boucher, "Diane," General Diégo, Brosset, E. Auber. 5 Nov.: 25th Anniv. of UN, Centenaire of Bordeaux; 19 Nov.: Siege of Belfort, Degas "Danseuse"; 10 Dec.: Richelieu, Louis XIV, Bataille de Fontenoy. 17 Dec.: Cent. de poste par ballons-montés, Champ. du monde de patinage sur glace, Oceanexpo, JT "La Poste aux Armées" (and Reunion one). Andorra Champ. of athletic juniors.

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The change in the arrangements of the flammes which the PT announced awhile back has started but there are indications it is not going to be satisfactory and the PT is still considering other alternatives.

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The PTT recently opened to the public a postal museum at Amboise in an old 16th Century building. The museum collection is based mainly on materials acquired from the former private museum of M. Pierre Paul at Limeray. It has many rare and curious pieces relating to the history of the posts in France, essays, prints, costumes, books, early stamps, and the first telegram. (Musée de la Poste, Hotel de Joyeuse, 6 rue Villaret-de-Joyeuse, Amboise.)

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The Stanley Gibbons firm announces that the work on the first volume of their European catalogue, covering A-F countries, is coming along on schedule and they will announce publication date soon. The colonies will not be in these volumes; where they are now independent they will not be with the former mother country, and occupation issues and post offices abroad will be under country occupied.

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Our members have been out collecting medals again. Pres. John Lievsay took a Gold at RIPEX on October 16-17 last for his specialized France #58 (—he was one of the judges but the other two judges outvoted his modesty; Gardner and Ruth Brown were awarded Best in Show for their Paris Commune exhibit. At SEPAD in Philadelphia in November, Ray Gaillaguet obtained a Gold medal for his "Birth of the 3rd Republic," and Walter Brooks' well-studied Sowers collection took a Silver.

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The Collectors Club of NY was treated on 17 November to a very choice selection of wonderful exhibits from the holdings and members of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. Among them were 16 pages of 1870-71 material of John H. Levett, past-President and editor of the British France and Colonies Philatelic Society and a Councillor of the RPS. He had some quite unusual items: a ballon monté letter written in a secret military code with translation appended; a rare ballon-monte (non-dénommée no. 2) that fell into the sea, with special cachet; a rare ballon-monté with "Nouvelle Presse Libre de Vienne"; two Boules de Moulins letters; a papillon de Metz; a Swiss cover with "In-

ternées en Suisse" prisoners-franchise label; mint tete-beches of the 10 and 20c Siege in blocks; a used block of 20 of the 40c Siege with the two recut "4" stamps! There was also in another's collection, a most remarkable and probably unique 1872 cover from Gambia with oval river-boat-service cachet and French Colonies G. I. 20c Ceres and 30c Napoleon cancelled with Gorée lozengé in blue!

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The Curator of the London Postal Museum last November at the Salon Philatélique d'Automne presented to the French Minister of PTT, the maquettes and some essays of the stamps prepared in 1940 for a proposed joint Franco-British issue which was rejected. They show the effigies of King George and President LeBrun side by side. These were mentioned in News and Notes in FCP for April 1971, p. 39. They are now in the Musée Postal. Two of the essays are illustrated in Postes et Telecommunications for Dec. 1971, p. 21; one is the original by Cheffer, the other the version modified by Dulac—a very interesting comparison! Dulac's is certainly an improvement by turning the heads inward somewhat and streamlining the frame motifs.

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A Mon. Stieber is undertaking to organize an association of collectors to study the marks bade on letters by or for the new sorting machines. Anyone interested in this new and intriguing specialty may address him at les Liserons, Ausillon, F81-Mazamet, France.

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Dr. Jean Storch and Robert Francis have prepared a book of about 180pp on the stamps of the Blanc type, to be published soon by Le Cercle Lyonnais d'Etudes Philatéliques et Marcophiles. The author would appreciate hearing from anyone who will be interested in the book. Address: 6, place de Verdun, F42-Roanne, France.

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The PTT promises to institute a parcels-post handling of packets of 3 to 5kg weight, which now are not accepted except up to 15kg if insured for declared value. Ordinary packages 5-50kg are handled by the state railways system (SNCF) who use the "Colis Postaux" labels.

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The PTT will shortly publish a "Code Postal" book of 144 pages, giving the ZIP-Code-like numbers to be used in addressing mail in France. The code, which will go into effect sometime this spring, is to facilitate the automated mail sorting system being introduced. The numbers are of 5 digits, the first two of which are the Departement Number as assigned by the PTT several years ago and already in general use on mail.

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A number of our members are interested in French or French Colonial revenue stamps. They have difficulties in locating material and publications. Only a few postal-fiscals are in the standard French catalogs and the old Forbin catalogues are now very difficult to find (they come up occasionally in French auctions). The American Revenue Association (Secry.: Bruce Miller, 1010 So. 5th Ave., Arcadia, Cal. 91006) has a number of members who collect French or world-wide revenues and its magazine has ads with offers; it also runs a sales circuit and auctions. We have not been able yet to locate any organization in France devoted to fiscals and one rarely sees any offers of them in French stamp magazines or auctions. A U. S. firm that handles many lots of foreign revenues is Clearinghouse for Stamps and Coins (Dave Schwartz), 764 W. 181st St., New York, N. Y. 10033. The Kremer catalog

of French revenues is not so complete as Forbin, but is still available from HJMR Co. in Miami. The ARA maintains a lending library for its members.

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A listing of all the known postoffices from which examples are known of the 10c stamps bisected during Sept. 1871 when there was a shortage of 5c stamps owing to the War, is given in *La Philatélie Française* for Oct. 1971, p. 284. The dates of use run from 3 Sept. to 21 Nov.—90% are in Sept. About 2/3rds of the pieces are from towns in the Dept. of Nord, Aine and Oise. The bisects were authorized by a circular of Dec. 1870. The stamps bisected were the 10c Lauré, 10c Ceres, and 10c Bordeaux. They were needed to make up the 15c and 25c rates introduced by the Law of 25 Aug. '71, the 5c Napoleon stamps being in very short supply till June '72 and the new 15c and 25c stamps not getting out to all the postoffices immediately.

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Ice Cap News notes an item in the Stamp Wholesaler in which a NY dealer advertises he wants to buy TAAF stamps Sc. #s C6, 7, 8, 10a, 11 and 16a. They do not catalog much so we wonder why the demand?

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Two of the programmed celebrated-personages stamps for 1972 have an American connection. Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve, born in 1612, was the architect for the founding of Montreal whose first buildings were constructed on 18 May 1642. Attacks of Iroquois indians required fortifying the town and its growth was rapid. Owing to jealousies and intrigues De Maisonneuve left Canada in 1665 and has not had his just measure of fame for his accomplishments. Admiral De Grasse, born in Provence in 1722, is better known to us for his exploits in assisting the 13 Colonies during the Revolutionary War. He commanded the French fleet that kept the British busy in the West Indies. Taken prisoner in 1782 and sent to London, he was later freed and acquitted by the War Council.

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The Boston Public Library is holding an exhibit of Postal History, Postage Stamps, and Philatelic Literature, from December 1971 thru February 1972. It is interesting to note in the catalogue that five out of the 34 exhibits are French postal history including an early postal guide and two 1870-71 items.

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Come 1 July 1972, according to "Les Echoes," will end the use of the Franchise Militaire stamps of France, which first were issued in 1901. The reason for this demise is that the government has increased the daily gratuity ration (peculé journalière) to military personnel from 75c to 1.25Fr, of which 25c is considered to adequately cover costs of correspondence. We don't suppose the current FM stamps will suddenly become rare but it may be a good idea to get them now.

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Our member Marcel Lotwin J. informs us of the excellent "Historical Album of France" with printed pages for French stamps annotated along topical and historical lines. It is in English. The publisher is P. Ruinart, rue des Terreaux 2, Lausanne, Switzerland.

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The PT announces that on 11 Feb. they will withdraw the "Antoinette" stamp and Reunion "Alignements du Carnac"; on 10 March the V. Grignard and H. Farman Stamps.

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On 22 Jan. the 1.00F Fragonard "L'Etude" painting stamp will be issued

(recess, Durrens). On 29 Jan. the 0.90F for 200th Anniv. of the Discovery of Crozet and Kerguelen Islands (Bequet, recess). On 7 Feb. the 0.90F for Winter Olympic Games at Sapporo, Japan (recess, Betemps). On 21 Feb. two stamps for red-cross showing celebrated personages: 0.50+0.10F Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve, and 0.50+0.10F Aristede Bergès (recess, Bequet and Combet). On 20 March the 0.50+0.10F Journée du Timbre stamp "Facteur Rurale a Bicyclette—1894" (recess, Pheulpin). For Reunion they will issue on 17 Jan. 50CFA Chateau de Sedan, on 31 Jan. 45CFA Discovery of Crozet and Kerguelen, on 20 March 25CFA+5CFA Journée du Timbre.

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Our member Irving Bronson has asked for information on an overprint he found on the 25c blue Sower without ground (Sc. 168) which reads: "G. I. / HEDJAZ / P.S. / 2" (four lines). We have been unable to find anything on this. Do any members know what it is?

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About April 1967 a new ferry boat, the AVENIR, started operating between Marseille and Tunis; it has used a purser's cachet with date in box, which can sometimes be found on loose letters mailed on board.

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Some time ago a Latvian collector wrote us inquiring about the marks generally seen on stampless letters sent from Russia to France in the 1860's consisting of a small rectangular box inscribed "P." and a number. An article by Vandervelde in the Jn. of the Rossica Soc. of Russian Phil. #71, 1966 pp. 39-41, on these boxed P numbers seems to indicate that these were marks to show routing to France via Prussia. Numbers 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39 and 41 are known, mostly from 1859-69, all on letters from Russian and Baltic states or Scandinavia that were unpaid ("PORTO") addressed via or to Paris. The author thinks they were applied at the Franco-Prussian border by an inspector, or on the train for Paris, or at Paris. P33, P35 and P38 were used only on mail from Russia, but not concurrently; P35 is from 1858-61, P33 from 1862-65, and P38 1866-71. P34 is seen only on Scandinavian mail 1862; P37 seen on a letter from Neuwied to G. B. via Paris, P41 on one from Taganrog to Genoa via Paris. According to an article in The Philatelist 1966-67 on "Aus Russland," the P marks were used in compliance with the Franco-Prussian Mail Conventions of 1847-71.

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The so-called Poincaré "essays" of 1913 are labels put out in his honor in connection with various affairs held that year. There are at least 5 types known: in a booklet of 20 labels of the French Red Cross one is an effigy of Poincaré; another set titled "Nos Chefs" contains a Poincaré; an entire of 146x112 mm for the Exposition Philatélique Internationale of June 21-30 at Paris carries an orange vignette of Poincaré 27x36 mm with leafspray borders, inscribed at top "Exposition Philatélique Internationale" and "RF," at bottom "Paris 1913/10"; a banquet menu on the occasion of that Exposition had pasted on it a green stamp like the one on the above described entire; a very rare set of 3 stamps printed by Chamon with Poincaré effigy, "RF" at top and "1913" at bottom with fasces and scroll at sides—colors blue, red, and green.

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One sees mention in the magazines, in ads and in some catalogues, of the so-called "non-official franchise stamps" for allegedly military mail; these were really no more than propaganda and charity labels and have the Vichy taint. The 1941-42 émissions de Franchise du Corps Expéditionnaire des Volontiers Française en Russie consisted of 2 stamps of the "courrier officiel avion" and



"courrier special avion" set surcharged "Front de l'Est/Ostfront" and 5 labels issued at Borodino. In 1945 a government decree forbid the listing of these. They were sold by a private office in Paris ("L. V. F."), and supposed to be used on letters to and from the volunteer soldiers with the German troops in Russia via a special air service. On 10 April 1942 a set of unofficial charity labels were issued for the benefit of the Walloon legionnaires and their families. They were printed in the form of perforated souvenir sheets of 4 in four denominations and designs: +20F Cavalier of the Middle Ages, +30F Légionnaire and flag, +50F Régiment, +100F Combattants; at top in margin of sheet: "Timbre de Franchise," at bottom "De La Légion Des Volontaires Wallons Contre le Bolchévisme." They also were available in imperf blocks, collective proofs, and maximum cards.

### Ambling at ANPHILEX

The six-day exhibition at the Waldorf-Astoria in commemoration of the Collectors Club's 75th Anniversary was truly memorable. Great rarities were features in a section called "Aristocrats of Philately" and France was there represented by the Gill mint block of 1fr vermilion with tete-beche. Among the gold-medal collections of individual countries shown in the main hall of the Grand Ballroom, Emile Antonini of Switzerland showed six frames of magnificent classic France. It isn't possible to list here all the unusual items in it (in impeccable condition) but most notable perhaps were: an interpane mint block of 16 of #3; the 5fr Laureated mint imperforate; many rare examples of the provisional cancels of early January 1849 including one cover struck 12/31/48 and then recancelled on 1/1/49, the proper first day; first issue used from colonies including one unique 1853 cover from Guiana with 1fr Ceres and pair of 20c Empire; a virtually complete showing of the tete-beche pairs mint and on covers; a similarly comprehensive display of exceptionally fine bisects and quadrisects on covers; finally the Bordeaux issue well represented including ultramarine examples of all three types of the 20c.

Some incidental French material was seen in postal history pages of other collections—Suez Canal Company covers, Expeditionary Force in China, offices abroad, balloon covers to Japan, and many rare maritime items in addition to the frame of choice maritimes in the Collectors Club members' section entered by our past-President Marc Martin.

Among the many distinguished visitors we met were Mr. and Mrs. John H. Levett from England, Bernard Behr and Paul Margoulis from Paris. The dealers bourse had some very head-spinning material of France too. At the open house at the Collectors Club members and visitors had a chance to engage socially and talk shop with the aid of endless draughts of champagne.

It was a show of a standard not likely to be seen again for many years.

—J.E.L. and R.G.S.

## MEMBERS APPEALS

(Members Advertising)

WANTED: 1970 Catalogue Thiaude and 1970 Yvert et Tellier (vol. 1 only).

Will pay cash. Do not want to trade or exchange. Need these volumes for cataloging study so must be complete and in good condition. Kent M. Redgrave, Jr., 807 Elderbank Ct., Baltimore, Md. 21204 (Member #1214).

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## NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, AND CATALOGS

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- "Emissions de France, Vol. II—Les Timbres Français Perforés (5th-9th Supls.)"  
By Col. Leblond. Brochure #129, Le Monde des Philatélistes, 1971. 4.95 Fr.  
p.p. Le Monde, 11 bis Blvd. Haussmann, Paris 9.
- "The French Commissars Airmail of 1793." 12 pp, 1971, Repr. from Postal  
History Jn. By E. M. Cohn.
- "Les Oblitérations Mécaniques, Temporaires, et Premier Jours d'Algérie des  
Origines à 1962." By G. Chapier. 1971. 40 pp. 10.65 Fr p.p. Ed. Echangiste  
Universelle, F67-Bischwiller. CCP Strasbourg 703. (Incl. data in articles in  
Echo 1968-9, plus many additions.)
- "L'Argus 1972." Dec. 1971. 9.00 fr p.p. (Incl. 3 trimestrial Suppls. gratis).  
Ed. Defours, F06-Cagnes sur mer. CCP Marseille 5.861.10. (Catalogue of  
France and Monaco, claims prices are up-to-date real market, illustr. of  
modern Fr. stamps in color.)
- "Catalogue Thiaude 1972." 57th Ed. 1971. 9 fr p.p. H. Thiaude, 24 rue du  
quatre-Septembre, Paris 2. R. C. Seine 59A.8573 (also sold by J. Habib,  
N. Y.) (5000 price changes, encyclopédie section now extended thru Sage  
issue, non-dentelées priced, lists quantities pr. of each stamp, claims to be  
market priced.)
- "Marques Postales et Oblitérations de la Département de Saone et Loire" by M.  
Berteault. Illustr. (to 1900). 1971, the author. Place d'Armes, F71-Givry.
- "France—A Brief History of the Stamps and Cancellations from 1849-1876."  
By John H. Levett. 1971. 27 pp illustr. 25 pence plus postage (=approx.  
30p). France and Colonies Phil. Soc. (of G. Br.). Order from the author at  
Newlands View, Hook Heath Road, Woking, Surrey, England. (Useful  
condensed survey with excellent illustrations.)
- "Postal History and Postmarks of the Franco-Prussian War." By Rev. Wm.  
Bentley. Ca. 1965? 50 pp. France and Col. Phil. Soc. (of G. Br.) About \$1.  
Order from John H. Levett (see above). (A very good overview of the  
subject)
- "Catalogue des Marques Postales des Bureaux de Distribution de France—  
Cursives 1819-1858." By J. Pothion. 1971. 96 pp. 32 fr p.p. La Poste aux  
Lettres, 17 faubourg Montmartre, F75-Paris 9, France (CCP 11574-06).  
(Another of the excellent priced catalogues by this author.)
- "Les Oblitérations Mécaniques Françaises, Tome IV, Loiret/Meurthe-et-Moselle"  
by P. Brémard. 1971. 48 pp illustr. 6.45 fr p.p. Le Monde Brochure #130.  
Le Monde des Philatélistes, 11bis. Bvd. Haussmann, F75-Paris 9. (CCP  
18382-12). (Continuation of catalogue of machine cancels appearing serially  
in Le Monde.)
- "Die Ballons von Paris 1870-71." By G. Heyd. 1971. 55 pp. 10DM. V. E. Mohr-  
mann, Speersort 6, 2 Hamburg 1, Germany. (Lists, describes, each flight,  
with data, scarcity ratings for covers.)
- "La Poste dans la Drome et l'Ardeche des Origines à 1920." By L. Lenain. To  
appear Jan. 1972. 320 pp. 115fr. p.p. The author, 13 Chemin des Semestres,  
F13-Arles, France. (A very detailed documented catalog and history of  
postmarks of this region.)

- "Briefmarkengeld". By A. Pick. 1971. 66 pp. DM17.50. Klinkhardt and Biermann, Helmsstedter Str. 151, 33 Braunschweig, Germany. (A world-wide catalog listing of encased postage stamps, etc., including France and cols.)
- "Catalogue Thiaude 57eme Edition 1972—Timbres-Poste de France et Pays d'Expression Francaise." 1971. 642 pp. Illustr. 9.00Fr. H. Thiaude, 24 rue du Septembre, F75-Paris 2. R. C. Seine 59A 8573. (Also available prob. from J. Habib NY and HJMR; the Thiaude this year is 100 pages larger than last, the encyclopedie part extended to Sage issue; prices are said to be close to Yvert's in 20th Century and somewhat less in 19th. Yvert having raised 19th classics by 10-15% mint.)

### Bequet on Engraving Stamps

An article in *Postes et Telecommunications* December 1971 about the 1972 stamp program incidentally contains some very interesting information and illustrations about French stamp designing and engraving. This came out in course of an interview of Pierre Bequet on the TV program of Pierre Bellemare on Chain 2 on November 5th. The PT, we are told, has about 20 artists and/or engravers who work more or less regularly on commissions. The PT in awarding commissions takes into account the personality of each engraver. Bequet, who is 39 and has worked for the PT for about a dozen years, likes to have varied assignments, some on all types of stamps. Once a project is awarded the first task is to make several maquettes (paintings or sketches) from which the Minister can choose the one to be used. This is the most interesting phase to Bequet, for it is the real moment when the stamp is starting to be created. It is necessary to research documents, see persons who can suggest ideas. For the recent stamp for the 150th Anniv. of the Académie Nationale de Médecine, for example, he discussed it with the members of the Académie. He also engraved two of the 4 stamps for the DeGaulle strip. For these he obtained inspiration from photos, and his representation is in effect a composite or synthesis of various views of the subject. For designs in the tourism series he draws on the spot, making a sketch book with notes on notable characteristics. The maquettes are made in colors with a brush at generally six times the size of the stamp. Once chosen, the maquette is photographed and then reduced to the exact dimensions planned for the stamp. Next it is reproduced by the printery in reversed image on a steel block. This block is returned to the engraver along with the original maquette. The engraving commences. In France it is done entirely manually with burins. Bequet uses 3 or 4 different ones according to the task. Generally each engraver works over his own burins to adapt them to his style of engraving. As the image on the steel block is reversed the engraver while working looks at the maquette in a mirror so it will be likewise. The engraving calls for extreme precision since there may be as many as 11 lines to a millimeter and the least error may require starting all over with a new block—it is very difficult to cover up a mistaken burin line. Engraving stamps demands much more close attention than ordinary engraving as the engraver must always be thinking of the special requirements for the ultimate printing. The lines must not be too deep else the transfer roll will have too much relief and be subject to breaks—and the lines must not be too shallow or the transfer roll won't penetrate them. In general it takes about 100 hours to engrave a stamp. France is without doubt the only country where the stamps are now engraved only manually; in most countries photo-mechanical and machine-engraving aids are used. Stamps carefully engraved are an excellent ambassador to the World.

## THE REGULAR ISSUES OF FRANCE 1876-1966 ACCORDING TO THEIR NORMAL POSTAGE USAGE

By Stanley J. Luft

(Continued from FCP #146, p. 87)

### VII. The Ceres, Mercure, and Iris Issues of 1938-1945

In 1938 the postal authorities decided to replace the remaining members of the long-lived Sower family, the entire Paix of Laurens issue, and certain high cost large-format engraved stamps, with new typographed-only designs. The first to appear were of a modified classical Ceres design, which replaced the 1F75 Laurens and the engraved "Monuments and Sites"; the low value\*, to the 75 centimes value, were replaced by the Mercury-head design, and the intermediate values by the Iris design. These very Republican stamps suffered nearly total eclipse during the days of the Vichy French State, though some were triumphantly resurrected by the Provisional Government.

All adhesive stamps for sheets (plus the single booklet and coil values) were printed from rotary plates; flat plates were used for surcharges and for stamped postal stationery.

In regard to the tariffs in force, I wish to point out that by this time, the domestic tariff rates also applied to the colonies and protectorates (and since World War II, to the French Union) and to Andorra and Monaco. Samples (échantillons) are no longer specified inasmuch as, beginning with the domestic Tariff of 12 July 1937, they were paying rates identical to those for printed matter of the same weight scale.

#### A. The Ceres Issues of 1938-1941

Scott type A81

##### 1F75

The 1F75 deep blue (Scott 335, Yvert 372) replaced the 1F75 Paix of Laurens (Sc 283, Yv 289) on 2 Feb. 1938.

Foreign usage (Tariff of 1 Aug. 1937):

\*Letters, to 20 gm (incl. airmail letters to certain European countries);

Invoices, unsealed, to 250 gm;

Printed matter, from 200 to 250 gm.

Printed in UPU color in sheets from 13 Jan. to 3 Nov. 1938.

Rendered obsolete by foreign Tariff of 1 Dec. 1938 and suppressed.

##### 1F/1F75

Overprinted (Sc 397, Yv 486) by flat plate on remainders of above stamp; about 22.5 million issued from 2 Dec. 1941 to 16 Aug. 1941.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 1 Dec. 1939):

Domestic usage (Tariff of 1 Dec. 1939):

Letters, to 20 gm;

Registry fee, for other than letters and parcels.

##### 2F

The 2F carmine-rose (Sc 336, Yv 373) replaced the 2F Arc d'Orange (Sc 342, Yv 389), was issued March 1939.

Originally issued as a supplementary value.

Printed in sheets at Paris from 23 Jan. to 7 June 1939, and at Limoges from 25 Jan. to 18 April 1940.

\*Primary or common use.

#Continued through succeeding tariff(s).

**Domestic usage (Tariff of 1 Dec. 1939):**

Registry fee, for letters and parcels;

Airmail letters, incl. surtax, to 10 gm (to Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia);

Registered printed matter, from 100 to 200 gm.

**Foreign usage (Tariff of 1 Jan. 1940):**

Printed matter, from 150 to 200 gm;

Letters, from 20 to 40 gm (to Luxembourg and Canada).

Probably remained on sale until stocks were exhausted.

**2F25**

The 2F25 ultramarine (Sc 337, Yv 374) was issued 1 Feb. 1939, value having been reestablished by the foreign Tariff of 1 Dec. 1938:

**Usage:**

\*Letters, to 20 gm (incl. airmail letters to certain European countries);

Printed matter, from 200 to 250 gm;

Invoices, unsealed, to 250 gm.

Printed in UPU color in sheets from 16 Jan. to 29 June 1939.

Rendered obsolete by foreign Tariff of 1 Jan. 1940 and suppressed.

**1F/2F25**

Overprinted (Sc 398, Yv 487) by flat plate on remainders of above stamp (see 1F/1F75, above); about 26.6 million issued from 25 Jan. to 16 Aug. 1941.

**2F50 green**

The 2F50 green (Sc 338, Yv 375) was issued in Jan. 1939; value having been reestablished by the domestic Tariff of 17 Nov. 1938:

**Domestic usage:**

\*Registered letters, to 20 gm (until 30 Nov. 1939);

#Special delivery (express) fee.

**Foreign usage (Tariff of 1 Dec. 1938):**

#Registry fee.

**Foreign usage (Tariff of 1 Jan. 1940):**

\*Letters, to 20 gm;

Printed matter, from 200 to 250 gm.

Printed in sheets at Paris from 13 Jan. to 22 June 1939, and at Limoges from 27 Sept. to 21 Oct. 1939.

Replaced by the 2F50 violet-blue (Sc 339, Yv 375A) in October 1940, following promulgation of the foreign Tariff of 1 Jan. 1940, and suppressed.

**1F/2F50 green**

Overprinted (Sc 399, Yv 488) by flat plate on remainders of above stamp (see 1F/1F75, above); about 10 million issued from 4 March to 18 Aug. 1941.

**2F50 violet-blue**

The 2F50 violet-blue (Sc 339, Yv 375A) replaced the 2F50 green in Oct. 1940.

**Foreign usage (Tariff of 1 Jan. 1940):**

\*Letters, to 20 gm;

Printed matter, from 200 to 250 gm;

Registry fee.

**Domestic usage (Tariff of 9 Aug. 1926):**

Special delivery (express) fee.

Printed in UPU color in sheets at Limoges from 25 May to 10 June 1940, and at Paris 11-18 June 1941.

Replaced by the 2F50 ultramarine Petain (Sc 444, Yv 520) in Oct. 1941.

**3F**

The 3F rose-lilac (Sc 340, Yv 376) replaced the 3F Avignon (Sc 344, Yv 391) in April 1939.

Originally issued as a supplementary value.

Possible usage (foreign Tariff of 1 Dec. 1938):

Airmail letters, to 20 gm (those parts of Europe where airmail sur-tax was in effect).

Printed in sheets at Paris from 7 Feb. to 24 Aug. 1939, at Limoges from 18 Nov. 1939 to 31 May 1940, and at Paris from 10 Feb. to 6 Sept. 1941.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 1 Dec. 1939):

\*Registered letters, to 20 gm.

Foreign usage (Tariff of 1 Jan. 1940):

Printed matter, from 250 to 300 gm.

Replaced by the 3F orange Petain (Sc 445, Yv 521) in Oct. 1941.

(To be continued)



"At his POSTE always faithful, forerunner of the sweet notes, this GOMMEUX (dandy), in the eyes of the belle, never lacks for CACHETS (gifts)." From Le Coll. de T. P., 1913, p. 282).



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

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### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members

A busy and exciting season is well under way. Many of our members met and shared the pleasures of philately at the ASDA show and ANPHILEX in November (see News and Notes column).

Notices for the S. G. Rich Contest have been sent to all members, and we are looking forward to the contest night, February first.

As you see on the front cover, our participation at INTERPEX is the Society's thirtieth birthday party. In addition to the special features which are being arranged for this show, our exhibit frames provide a showcase for extensive presentations which have appeared in more abbreviated form in previous competitions. Details for participants are being sent to you under separate cover.

Members will want to take special notice of the Jan. 31, 1972 issue of Linn's Weekly which is to feature the Society and articles contributed by the members.

John E. Lievsay

At the November Board Meeting: approved formal application to the Internal Revenue Service to establish the Society as a tax-exempt organization (application sent in on 18 Nov.): date and rules adopted for S. G. Rich competition, Feb. 1, 1972; an operating budget for 1972 (calendar year) was carefully reviewed to assure funding of active projects; acknowledgement and thanks to Rhode Island Philatelic Society for its gift of slides of 1871 material to be included in the presentation of Commune issues and usages now being prepared by a group of members.

#### Meeting of November 2

As too few of the officers could be present the planned business meeting was dispensed with and Mr. Gus Wittenberg was pressed into service on short notice to give us a showing of his collections of Sowers/Blanc/Mouchon/Merson. It included an excellent representation of varieties, coins, datés, proofs, re-touches, types, etc.

#### Meeting of December 7, 1971

The meeting was called to order by President Lievsay at 8 p.m. with some 22 members present. A short business session was held, with a discussion of the new filing for tax exemption as non-profit organization for internal revenue purposes. If granted, it could be of some value to the members. The Society's award for the best French Exhibit at NOJEX was awarded to Mr. William N. Mead for his R. F. Overprints on U. S. Air Mails. After the usual officers' reports, the business session was closed, and the floor was turned over to the speaker for the evening. This feature was "The Commune Revolution, Paris 1871—Covers and Slides" of Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Brown, and the commentary was made by Mrs. (Ruth) Brown. This very interesting period in French history was ably covered by an extensive presentation of color slides of French stamps on cover from and to Paris during this troubled time. Interspersed between covers were slides of drawings and views of the areas involved. Slides of the same areas today were also included to show the present look of the same buildings, etc. On the frames at the Collectors Club, were the actual covers involved, to be inspected by members present at leisure. Accompanying the visual presentation, was a most interesting narrative by Mrs. Brown about the material. Also available for perusal by the members were various books on

the Commune. After the usual question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Needless to say, a most enjoyable evening.—W. E. Parshall.

### The Slide and Tape Project Progresses

An experiment is underway designed to be of interest to out-of-town members who rarely get a chance to see French stamps other than their own. Sparked by a suggestion from our corresponding secretary, Walter Parshall, at least two F&C members are accumulating 35mm slides of specialized collections representative of specific periods of French philately. Gardner Brown is working on the Commune Revolution of 1871, and although he has a good start has asked your editor to explain what he is trying to do with the hopes other members will donate slides of their Commune material so that all can see. Walter Parshall's suggestion was to prepare slide-tape recorder (cassette) programs which could be sent to members on request (and I suppose at a nominal cost). The programs might even serve as a nucleus for regional meetings of France and Colonies should the urge arise. If you have 35mm color slides of Commune material, or are willing to send it to be photographed, please contact Gardner Brown directly and help make this experiment a success. His address is 16 Stamford Ave., Stamford, Ct. 06902, phone 203/327-6969. From 9 to 5 he is at 212/986-7474 but his wife Ruth, who sometimes stays at home, knows more about the subject than he does. Or, so Gardner says.

### NEW MEMBERS

- 1314 LaBLONDE, Capt. Charles J., 17 Vandenberg Dr., Route 4, Tullahoma, Tenn. 37388 (France: all used stamps, covers and special postmarks.)
- 1315 MATHIAS, Richard T., 213 West 5th St., Hermann, Mo. 65041 (France: first day covers, etc.)
- 1316 BROLLY, Michael T., 252 Sherman Ave., New York, N. Y. 10034 (France: St. Pierre and Miquelon; Andorra.)
- 1317 RAPPAPORT, B. Howard, 54 Abington Ave. East, Newark, N. J. 07104 (France Proper: 19th Century, and modern imperforates.)
- 1318 DE VASHER, William A., Jr., 235 East 83rd St., New York, N. Y. 10028 (France and Colonies.)
- 1319 RILEY, Phillip A., 36 Kings Way, Hyannis, Mass. 02601 (France & Colonies.)
- 1320 GROTEN, Dr. Arthur H., 3120 Schoolhouse Lane, Philadelphia, Pa. 19144 (Monaco.)
- 1321 HURST, Donald D., 160 Beach 139th St., Belle Harbor, N. Y. 11694 (France.)
- 1322 FEINSTEIN, Sheldon, 4079 Huerfano Ave., Apartment 218, San Diego, Cal. 92117 (France; French Offices.)

### REINSTATEMENT

- 600 WALDMAN, Leonard, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. 10038 (Dealer)

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 61 STONE, Robert G., P. O. Box 264, Fairfield, Penna. 17320
- 122 HEIMAN, Irwin, 22718 Flamingo St., Woodland Hills, Cal. 91364
- 1311 LOWRIE, Walter E., Route 1, Box 99, Lakebay, Wash. 98349
- 1308 HARRIS, Robert D., P. O. Box 401, Arnold, Cal. 95223
- 1282 O'GRADY, Patricia, 234 N. Ave. 54, Los Angeles, Cal. 90042
- 1300 BEARSE, LCDR Laurence McK., NAVINVSERVA, US Naval Station Box 666, FPO New York, N. Y. 09551
- 1116 SLATER, Raymond L., 310 Guyasuta Road, Pittsburgh, Penna. 15215
- 960 KAHN, Alfred I., 122 East 75th St., New York, N. Y. 10021
- 852 CUMMINGS, John A., P. O. Box 113, Alpena, Mich. 49707