



France & Colonies



Philatelist

AN UNUSUAL COVER FROM 1870 PARIS

Ernst M. Cohn

In his 112th auction on March 8, 1975, Robineau (Au Comptoir des Timbres, Paris) offered lots 3114 to 3143 as "lettres transportées par ballons montés." Most are from a single correspondence, which was probably not complete, as no letter (or perhaps one, without arrival mark) was offered from January 1871. All covers were originally franked, with one exception: Lot No. 3116 is described as "unfranked letter, hand-dated 30 September 70. Pmk leaving LONDON DE 13-70. Pmk entering ANGL. AMB. CALAIS, 14 DEC 70, British tax '6.' Pmk arrival Brissac, 20 DEC. (see Fig.) The text indicates: 'Here is an occasion of corresponding with you, which I hasten to take . . .' Letter carried out of besieged Paris probably thanks to a stranger. R(are), Very Fine."

It seemed unreasonable that a letter dated the last day of September should not get to London before mid-December. When I opened it, the answer became clear: "Paris 30 9br 1870" is certainly not September but November. That's so long after franking became obligatory that one must assume the lack of a stamp is not mere forgetfulness. Besides, the writer had franked his mail as early as 29 September. Why, then would he deliberately omit the stamp? Had the cover been given to a line crosser, he would have franked it for mailing in France, as it was addressed to France. And even if the person had intended to take the first available boat to England, he'd have time to drop that letter off on the way. No, the answer must be that the writer expected that that letter would NOT be mailed in France. That would make sense only for a message put into the diplomatic pouch of U. S. Minister Plenipotentiary (=ambassador) Elihu Benjamin Washburne. That bag was taken, more or less weekly, by Prussian courier, unopened, to the United States Despatch Agents in London, Benjamin Franklin Stevens. The French writer of this letter presumably had no access to British stamps for franking.

The American Philatelic Congress yearbook for 1976 should contain a lengthy article about that type of mail from the siege of Paris, a subject virtually unexplored thus far. Nevertheless, many particulars could not be incorporated there, nor were all the details available, at the time of its writ-

ing, concerning bag No. 7 that left Paris on December 6, 1870, in which this particular cover traveled to London. An unusual amount of documentation exists for the diplomatic pouch of that date, one week after the great breakout that ended disastrously for the French, and the effects of which were still vividly in everyone's mind.

Washburne wrote in his "Recollections" on December 5, 78th siege day (vol. 1, p. 251): "The military authorities have refused me a parlementaire for tomorrow morning, and I have applied to M. Jules Favre. I did not insist last week because of military operations, but there are no such reasons now existing and I believe that Favre will give me the permission to take out the bag. I have an accumulation of matter for two weeks and I must send it out now."

In his "Correspondence" there is a letter to Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, dated Paris, December 5, and received at Washington, D. C., December 30: "For military reasons the authorities were obliged to decline giving me a parlementaire for last Tuesday morning the 29th ultimo, to take my dispatches to the Prussian outposts. I now hope to have one for tomorrow morning; and if so, my dispatches will only be one week behind. . ."

A telegram from Jules Favre, French foreign minister at Paris, to General Trochu, commander of Paris, at 9:45 PM on December 5 states: "Mr. Washburne is with me, demanding to have his pouch sent tomorrow morning at 10 AM. I am telling him that all is subordinated to your operations. Should I say yes or no? I request your answer by this evening."

And again in Washburne's "Recollections," page 254, concerning Tuesday, December 6: "We should have received our bag yesterday . . . I sent my bag out yesterday . . ." (That must mean he gave it to the French military to hold till the next morning.)

Among the Americans in Paris at that time was William Herrick, who sent out a balloon letter on December 6th: "80th day of the Seige [sic]. My dear wife, The mail bag went out this morning carrying in it my letter to you. I am so glad that it is on its way. I have begun another, but I shall write by every balloon just the same. . ." (Note, too, that everyone had his own system of numbering the days of the siege.)

As for the date of arrival of the diplomatic pouch that left Paris on the morning of December 6, we have two indications from B. F. Stevens. On

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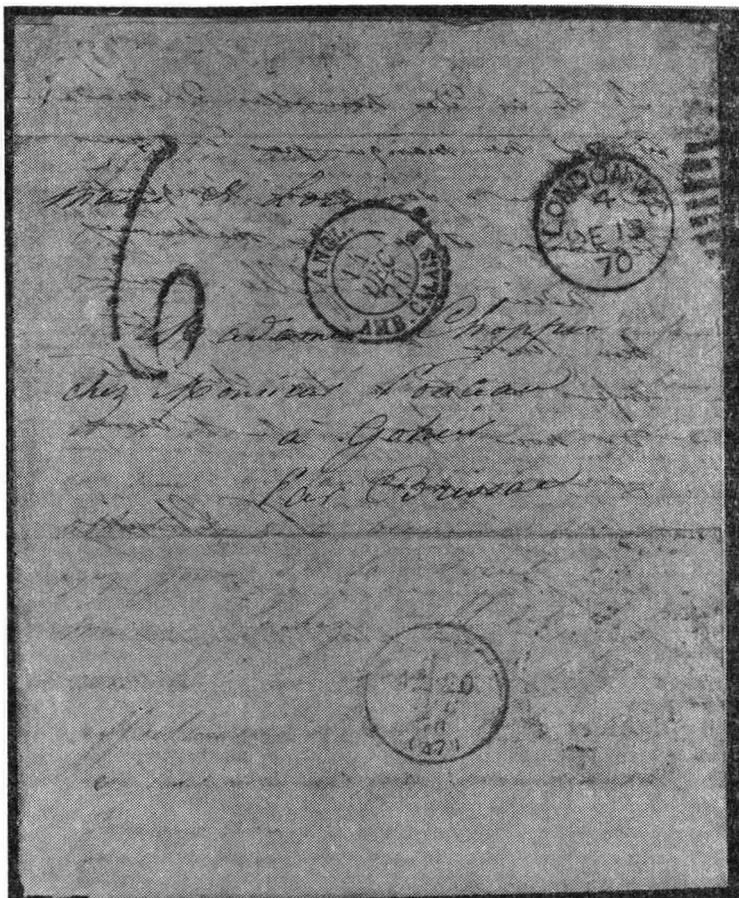
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—Photo by Adrien Boutrelle

December 16, he wrote to the first secretary of the U. S. Legation, Colonel Wickham Hoffman: "Your letters of the 5th instant came on Tuesday the 13th." And to Minister Washburne he wrote: "Your bag of the 5th came the 13th and that of the 12th came the 19th."

Stevens, who was quite sensitive to the worries and cares of the war, dispatched all the mail very promptly, as we know from other examples. It is no surprise, therefore, that this cover was postmarked on the very day he received it. Perhaps our experts on detoured mail, Ruth and Gardner L. Brown, can explain the considerable delay between Calais and Brissac. Incidentally, the final destination of that mail was not Brissac but nearby Gohier (today's mail code 49320, same as for Brissac, Maine-et-Loire).

Dr. Peter Jakobs kindly sent the text of the Paris telegram. Mr. Herman Herst Jr. lent the Herrick letter. The photo is by Mr. Adrien Boutrelle. If anyone has parts of the Herrick correspondence (two letters are known to be in England), be sure to read the text and examine the postmarks.

—E.M.C.—26th July 1975 (104th anniversary of the Paris postmarking of most of the "Ville de Paris" captured mail that somehow found its way back to France).

AN UNUSUAL FRANCE-U. S. COMBINATION COVER OF 1871

By Raymond Gaillaquet



The item shown here is quite exceptional for it is not the type of combination cover which is often seen, especially in the UPU period, when a letter is forwarded because the addressee has moved.

The rarer type of mixed franking is composed of stamps of two or more countries, one may be of the country of origin and the other of transit or destination, all affixed by the sender (or a forwarder) to prepay the full postage to destination. This was done sometimes when there was a lack of a postal convention between the countries of origin and destination in the pre-UPU period.

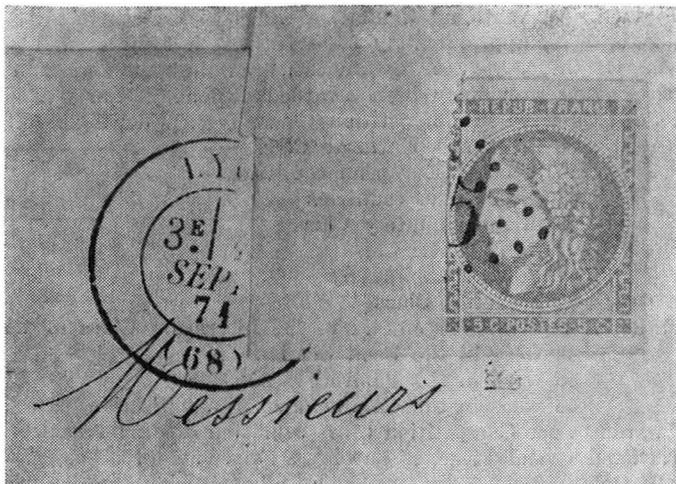
The French Loi of 21 April 1871, effective 1 July 1871, established the rate to an east coast U. S. port by French packet at 50c per 10 gr. France and the U. S. had no postal convention for a few years around 1871. A U. S. law of 1 July 1864 provided a 10c rate to those countries with which U. S. had no postal convention, paid to the frontier or port of the foreign country. This was also charged due on incoming letters from countries with which U.S. had no postal convention; it was at that time always collected in "solid" currency not in the depreciated currency of the post-Civil War period.

The cover illustrated was one which the sender had hoped would prepay to destination within U. S. as he had added a 10c U. S. banknote stamp to the pair of 25c Ceres. But unfortunately, the Paris P. O. struck the U. S. stamp (accidentally probably) as well as the French stamps with its "Gros Chiffre" killer. At New York on arrival the P. O. would not recognize the U. S. stamp as prepayment because it had already been cancelled (this is known to U. S. specialists in other cases too). And so they charged it 10c due and to show that, struck the cover with the standard mark "N. Y. Steamship/10/(date)".

The letter probably went on the French paquebot "Washington" of the CGT line which had left Havre on 21 Dec. 1871.

The author would appreciate hearing from any readers who have or know of similar combination covers of France + US of the pre-UPU period. We have also seen a letter from US to France with French stamps affixed by sender in U. S.

LOOK A LITTLE CLOSER



In painting there is a style called "trompe l'oeil." It is defined as a painting which at a distance gives the illusion of reality. This envelop could qualify as "trompe l'oeil" although in the reverse sense. At a distance it looks like an ordinary mixed franking of the 20c Ceres plus a 5c Bordeaux. But on closer inspection, and by lifting the Ceres, a magnificent "coin de feuille" of the 5c Bordeaux, Report 2, 3eme etat, position 6, is revealed. Moral:—In collecting stamps, as in everything else, things are not always what they seem to be. A little detective work will sometime turn what looks like a very ordinary item into an exciting and unusual item.—Ray Gaillaguet.

MEMBERS APPEALS

(Members Advertising)

- WANTED:** To exchange my duplicates of 1924 Paris Olympics postal card (tennis) for one (rowing) that I lack; will add bonus as inducement. Contact Stanley Luft, 3048 Village Dr., Ft. Mitchell, Ky. 41017 (Mem. #915)
- WANTED:** Members who wish to exchange French, Austrian, Mexican, or Swiss stamps as well as literature about stamps. Marcel Lotwin P., Apt. Post. 11-456, Mexico 11, D. F., Mexico. (Member #1182)
- OFFER:** To sell the following literature: Le Marcophile #17, Sept. 1940—\$2; Lesgor and Minegerode: "The Cancellations on French Stamps 1849-76"—\$6; F.-M. Cappart: "Journal du Blocus de Metz," 2nd ed. paper bd. (v. rare) pub'd at Metz about 1871-2?—\$15. Ernst M. Cohn, 103 G St. S. W., Apt. B-620, Washington, D. C. 20024 (Member #1491)
- WANTED:** Can anyone furnish information on a temporary mail service across the Channel during the Franco-German War between Southampton and La Rochelle? When did it start (and stop), which country ran it, and how often per week, how long did a trip take, other details? Ernst M. Cohn, 103 G St., S. W., Apt. B-620, Washington, D. C. 20024 (Member #1491)

ARPHILA '75—The French Section

At Arphila-75 International Exhibition which took place in Paris between June 6 and 16, 1975, approximately 5400 frames, a total of 730 collections were shown. Of these, 31 were by invitation in the Court of Honor; 19 in Honor Class having previously been awarded at least 2 Large Gold medals and 680 collections were in Competition Class, broken down as follows:

- 80 in French National Class
- 215 in other European countries
- 101 in overseas countries
- 69 in Aerophilately Class
- 104 in Thematic Class
- 17 in Maximaphilately
- 84 in Youth Class

In addition there were 170 entries in the Literature Class of which

- 54 were in the Book Section
- 58 were in the Publication Section
- 58 were in the Catalog and Album Section.

The Awards in the Competition Class consisted of an International Grand Prize, a National Grand Prize, a European Prize, an Overseas Prize, Large Gold Medals, Gold Medals, Vermeil Medals, Silver Medals, Silver-Bronze Medals, Bronze Medals and Diplomas.

The distribution of awards came to 19 Large Gold, 68 Gold, 112 Vermeil, 162 Silver, 139 Silver-Bronze, 87 Bronze and 21 Diplomas in Competition Class with, of course, the 4 Grand Prizes (a total of 471). In the literature class the awards were 1 Gold medal and 3 Gold Diplomas, 6 Vermeil medals and 13 Diplomas, 4 Silver and 15 Diplomas, 6 Silver-Bronze Medals and 20 Diplomas, 7 Bronze Medals with 22 Bronze Diplomas (a total of 24 medals and 73 Diplomas)

One of the advantages of visiting Arphila-75 was to get acquainted with the most prominent French collections. They were exhibited in the Court of Honor by invitation and were not in competition. Their owners are great philatelists of remarkable knowledge and even more remarkable means.

The largest French exhibit, belonging to Roger Loeillet was presented in 32 frames. Mr. Loeillet has the reputation of having the most spectacular collection of French classical material. Practically all his showing consisted of cancelled stamps and covers for the 1849-1870 period with very few mint pieces. All early issues including the Bordeaux were shown.

Mr. Leon Dubus is probably the greatest French philatelist with encyclopedic interests:—he not only is one of the biggest experts in French material, but he wrote a book on London pre-stamp covers and articles on American river boat mails. His 6 frames of classical material included a full pane of 300 20 centimes black (Scott #3) and ½ pane of the 25 cent.

FCPS member Mr. Joseph Schatkes in 8 frames showed a superb assembly of mint Napoleon laureated issues in blocks of up to 40, a collection of General Issues of Colonies with varieties and very rare French consular offices cancellations on covers.

Dr. J. Fromaigeat in 5 frames showed an extraordinary study of Bordeaux issues. He is considered as a top French expert and his books on Napoleon issues are classics.

Mr. G. Dreyfuss in 14 frames, in addition to his outstanding first issues, showed what is probably a unique French collection of the square postage-due stamps (Scott J1-J4), with mint panes of 400 stamps.

Finally Mr. V. Chanaryn of Great Britain showed in 20 frames what is

the most interesting and outstanding collection of ballon montés. He is reputed to possess over 5000 flown letters in addition to innumerable documents and his presentation reflected quite well the magnitude of his collecting.

It may be of interest to members of FCPS to see what kind of French collections were presented at Arphila-75 and how the Jury dispensed the awards to them:

	No. of Exhib.	Nat'l Gr. Pr.	Large Gold	Gold	Verm.	Silver	Silver- Bronze	Bronze
Traditional Philatelic Class								
A.—National Class—France:								
a) Pre-Stamps markings, Postal History								
General France	4	—	—	—	1	2	2	—
Related to city/province	12	—	—	—	2	5	3	2
Military Campaigns, etc.	8	—	—	—	1	4	2	1
b) Stamp Period—Cancellations, Postal History								
Maritime markings & canc.	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
French, General (to 1900)	3	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Paris (to 1900)	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
French, Gen. (after 1900)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
c) Stamps before 1900	20	1	2	5	4	—	5	3
(Note: 19 before 1876 and 1 before 1900)								
d) Stamps after 1900	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
e) Study Collections								
Study of types (Blanc, Sem., Mer.)	3	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Roulettes	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Rates	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Pneumatiques	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Liberation	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Consular Markings	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Refugees & Conctr. Camps	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
f) Postal Stationery	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
B.—Former French Colonies and Fr.-speaking countries								
General Issues—Fr. Offic.	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Algeria before 1875	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TAAF, Terre Adélie etc...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Madagascar before 1895	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Monaco	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Algeria since 1962	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Col. Essays, proofs, uniss.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	80	1	2	6	19	18	18	12
Aerophilately Class:								
B.—Forerunners of Air Mail, Balloon Mail—Siege of Paris								
9	—	—	—	1	3	2	3	—

A few conclusions can be drawn from this analysis of French material:—A great interest is apparent in collecting postal history, pre-adhesive markings and cancellations: 34 exhibits (43%) of the 80 collections dwell on these materials. This is still a relatively inexpensive specialization compared to classical stamps, and the numerous catalogs and literature issued during the past years help considerably its popularity.

—Classical entries (stamps before 1900) are, naturally enough, the "piece de resistance" of any International and in this show constituted 25% of all displays. Rarities exhibited in that category collected the bulk of the top awards.

—Surprisingly, no XXth Century material (with the exception of some study collections) of any interest or importance was shown. It is difficult to say if this was due to the Organizing Committee or to the unwillingness of potential exhibitors to enter into competition.

—Study collections, with 17% of total entries, had few original research or new material not yet catalogued. This field of patient and hard-working collectors seems to become more and more difficult to innovate with interesting subject matter not previously shown or published.

—Postal stationery enjoys quite a popularity, just like postal history and probably for the same reasons.

—Another surprise at Arphila was the display of French Colonies and French speaking countries which comprised only 11% of exhibits. With the exception of Monaco, it shows a loss of interest in old colonial issues. This fact, confirmed by the stagnant catalog prices has been observed since the emergence of the new nations, members of the French Community or independent.

It is an old axiom that in International Exhibitions, collections of certain countries can never obtain a top award, in spite of their possible rarity or interest. The same also seems to apply to certain collecting categories as judged by a French Jury at Arphila. Postal history, pre-stamp covers and miscellaneous studies, which formed 75% of all entries, received only one gold medal (and that one for pre-1900 covers with stamps). Obviously the seasoned judges, experts in all aspects of French classical philately, did not feel that any of these 75% displays, with one exception, contained enough rare or unique items or brought out special new discoveries worth a better award than a Silver or Vermeil medal. Other collections, not of French material, which were within the same categories, received in general a better recognition from the International Jury, although, as usual in these big shows, some exhibitors registered dissatisfaction with their awards.

ARPHILA '75—The FCPS Delegation Reports

Behind the Scenes:

Met at the airport by Schatzkes and chief customs inspector and whisked, with U.S. exhibits, to bin room with special customs station at Grand Palais. Issued special identification badge to get past armed guards patrolling with dog. Each exhibit signed out of bin room, one frame at a time, by three people—member of organizing committee, representative of PTT, and one philatelist. Good frames, easy to mount, double-locked, and secured to floor by steel stanchions. Workmen busy placing plants, laying grass walks, and putting finishing touches on murals and hanging artistic decorations.

Workmen also touching up brass railings of sweeping staircases, and spotting some of the girder work supporting the glass roof. Not much ventilation in the place, and when the sun finally came out the combination of direct sun and heat was particularly bad for mint multiple pieces and photographic pieces. One sheet of 75, 1872 Dragon issue of Japan, was reduced in two days to a couple of pairs and a lot of singles. Pigeon-post material removed

by collectors or their commissioners on second day, too. Heavy plastic facing put over the frames to reduce sun, and paper umbrellas also erected to cut direct exposure. Since this was the same problem as at the 1964 "Philatec" exhibition and at Munich, a little surprising that more advance planning was not done.

The three 'Grand Rarities'—penny British Guiana, Mauritius cover, and U.S. moon landing cover were supposed to have individual cages for display in the Court of Honor. They finally fixed one so that the Guiana could be seen, and the safe locked for the night; and eventually a plastic dome for the moon cover. Raymond Weill fumed for three days while they fiddled with the safe for the Mauritius cover, after spending \$15,000 insurance to make the trip, and then gave up in disgust and left for London, taking the cover with him.

The Show Goes On:

Big opening ceremonies, with dignitaries arriving in usual black Citroens, followed by full day of live entertainment in center arena. Large crowds for opening day and the weekend following, then thinned out a bit. No such thing as orderly lines at the Bureau Temporaire where the souvenir sheet is being sold; just shove your way to the counter, and then over to the next station to get the special exhibition cancel. No crowds at all at the official U.S. booth where the souvenir card is free, but cancellation requires that a U.S. stamp be affixed and costs Fr5. U.S. issues being sold at Fr=20c to cover the value-added tax (TVA).

The Art part of the show's theme is more than just the decorations in the hall and the running entertainment. In the upper balcony there is an (air-conditioned) exhibit of paintings, sculpture, and design materials which have become part of the issues of France; also some of the nation's artists are available to sign programs. Champagne brunch served in this area, but only to committee and official guests. Slide show in the auditorium at the rear of the main hall, with the only comfortable seats in the house, is particularly well done, and the music includes a special tune commissioned for ARPHILA. Closed-circuit television covers all the proceedings, and color sets are scattered throughout the entire building.

Special lunchroom in the basement is just for workmen; visitors get to stand in the half-hour line at the cafeteria in the art museum in the next building. Food is good and reasonably priced, too. Finally, on Saturday afternoon, somebody gets a case of the smarts and opens a beer, and cider soft drink stand (Fr 5 and 3 resp.) in the back next to the auditorium. They do a land-office business.

In the Side Tents:

Thematic exhibits are in the Palais de Glace (Ice Palace used as a skating rink) also built for the 1900 Exhibition. Junior competition is located on the mezzanine. Ticket to the show also good for admission to the Musée Postal, and there is continuous bus service from the Grand Palais to the Musée.

Didn't get to the topicals, but did go to the Musée and glad I did. The new building, near the Gare Montparnasse, is well laid out and full of interesting material as well as the automated display cases holding the reference collection. Noted—the décime due-marking on the stampless covers is from a brass handstamp; no plates of the first issues on display, but there is the litho stone for the 5c Suez; in the reference collection: a full pane of 75 5Fr Napoleons next to a pane of decoupage; and a reconstructed sheet of 25c 1871 III with a reconstruction of type I decoupage (12 pieces missing including a block of four, and 146A2 on the top row).

The Main Show:

In the Court of Honor.—Several exhibits of France by invitation or shown by members of the Jury. Unusual pieces noted were: complete sheet of 300 20c first issue; 2c Laureated printed on back of ½ 5Fr; complete reconstructions of the Bordeaux issue including the R1, 5c; Lorin-agency covers of the Siege; and full panes of the early dues.

In the National Competition—many exhibits with fine examples of the provisional cancels on the first issue; 1F vermilion, including the Sedan, Vervelle, and tête-bêche in a mint block, and perhaps the greatest assembly ever of the tête-bêche varieties of the first issue. Outstanding presentations of Napoleonic, Bordeaux, Maritime, Balloon, and Commune material. (Maritime and entry markings of France also included in many exhibits of other countries, and especially noted were those of the Channel Islands and the eastern Mediterranean.) Also noted were: 1851 London exhibition printings of the first issue; imperf block of the 5F Laureated; Bordeaux issue document with first proofs; 80c Bordeaux coupé on cover from Egypt, and two of the very scarcest military cancels, the Syria CESB with cachet of Bureau A on cover, and KCE griffe of the Kabylie expedition.

Except in the topicals, and some airmail exhibits, there was very little 20th Century France, and only token representation of the Colonies. Surprisingly, there was only one exhibit of type Sage, a fine specialized collection of the four and five-line precancels.

Literature in competition was well displayed, and reading copies were available for inspection. FCPS entries not received in the mail, and apparently about one-third of the literature entries failed to arrive. New Yvert Specialized released at the show, and a special issue of Feuille Marcophile was also available.

PTT had a demonstration press at one end of the hall, and the special exhibition labels were produced here. The design, a composite of the ARPHILA logo and the outline of the Grand Palais, was without value, but could be an item of interest to the specialist. I noted several copies being used in combination with stamps from the souvenir sheets and posted at the show.

I thought the judging gave fair valuation to the major collections, and with only a few surprises, what looked like winners got major awards. The FCP Society special award for the best showing of France by a foreigner, an engraved silver tray which went to Paris in my suitcase, went to Duane Hillmer's small-gold collection of 19th Century classics.—J.E.L. for the FCPS.

HERE WE GO AGAIN

Well-known painter Georges Mathieu, whose 2Fr stamp was issued last November for Arphila (Hommage à Nicolas Fouquet), published in *Le Figaro* for 14 Jan. 1975 a blast on "Pourquoi nos timbres sont-ils laid?" (Why are our stamps so ugly), a summary of which is given in *La Phil. Fr.* for Feb. It is kindling considerable ire among the defenders of the supremacy of French stamps. Mathieu refers to a referendum held annually by the Italian magazine *Il Collezionista* (Bolaffi)—a selection of foreign stamps, one to a country, by a jury of Italian "specialist journalists," for illustration in the magazine. The last two years the French stamps chosen were the 0.65 Grand Duc and the 0.50 + 0.10 Colette, which the jury ranked 40th and 42nd in preference among the countries. (However, let us add at this point, that the "Francois Ier" of Clouet was chosen 1st rank in 1968, and in 1971 the Grand Prix Napol-

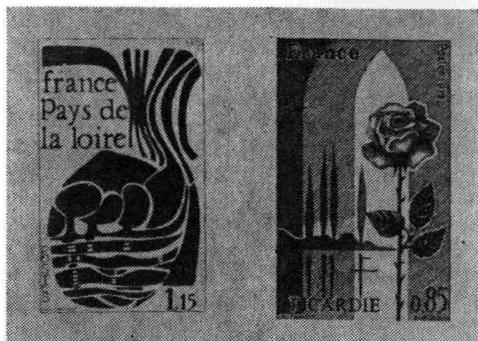
itain de l'Ar^{ch} Philatélique—for European countries only—was awarded to the “Danseuse” of Degas (Gandon.)

Anyway, Mathieu says the latest results of *Il Colezionista* confirm his feeling stated already 10 years ago that French stamps are “the ugliest in the World.” Why? Is it the fault of the engravers, the PTT bureaucrats, or the general cultural politics of the Government? The style of the stamps over the last 45 years is academic, conventional, and flat. One finds no trace of the prodigious pictorial movements that have animated the art world in the last 100 years—impressionism, fauvism, cubism, surrealism, nor abstraction do not exist in the stamp engravings. The reproductions of paintings since 1961 have massacred with impunity the works of Fragonard, Bouchet, Monet, et al. It is said that this came about as result of Culture Minister Andre Malraux telling the Minister of Posts to “make some artistic stamps.” They haven’t had the idea of commissioning a stamp by a great living artist: Braque, Picasso, Dufy, Ernst, Mondrian, were never asked Why? We had to wait 125 years for a stamp designed by a great living artist (Miro, 1974). Among the engravers of our stamps there are only mediocre artists. Some have talent and even imagination. But no one knows who decides what designs to adopt, though we know it will always be the most banal one. Anonymity, prudence, ignorance, irresponsibility, incompetence—these are the virtues of republican esthetics. We think the true reason why the Government choses to honor this or that event, is that usually some mayor, some Deputy, wishing to give luster to his town or quarter intervenes with the Minister. How do you explain the mystery of the choice by an ex-Minister of Posts, Deputy of the 13th Arrondissement, of the Manufacture of Gobelins? This is a curious era: when the Government constructs at great cost museums for “art-fiction” on the plateaus of Beabourg, organizes expositions of *avant-garde* in the National Galleries and other centers, but tolerates its administration to print and dispense millions of examples of mediocre objects. So why are we surprised that they reach only 42nd rank in philatelic art?

Alas, this is not the first time we have heard similar denunciations in various countries; but this one seems to be calculated to make the “Art et Philatélie” theme and seminars at Arphila rather edgy affairs. Never mind, let us sit back and enjoy the fireworks. But just for the record take a look at our article in FCP #124, p. 14. It is not really so much a matter of “de gustibus—etc.,” but the sociological fact that the general public and bureaucrats are not tunded to accepting “modern,” especially *avant-garde*, art of their time. Que sera sera.

The reaction to all this was predictable and quick to come. *Le Monde* received many letters from readers and queried the leading French stamp designers and engravers for their views. The stamp public at large, like the public in general, does not like nor understand abstract art (no more in France than elsewhere). No need to emphasize that; and of course the PTT officials themselves probably don’t like it and they are sensitive to the general public feeling. But the reactions of the stamp designers are curious. Many of them, as real artists of a sort, have some understanding, perhaps even a liking for abstract art; but the stamp work is bread and butter for them and they were circumspect about either offending the officialdom, nor the stamp public, nor their fellow artists (including Mathieu, whom they respect), nor their conscience. We think the article by Pierre Dehaye, Director of the French Mint, on “L’Art du Timbre” in *Arphila Informations Brochure #4*, May 1975, and reprinted in *Philatélie* for June 1975, puts the matter in much better perspective. See also Decaris talk before the *Art du Timbre Poste* colloquium held at Arphila (*LeMonde*, July-August 1975).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS



A 1.00F stamp commemorating the 75th Anniv. of the Paris regional Metro was issued with rather short notice on 21 June (outside the program ann. last Nov.) The 1.30F "Auvergne" stamp was to appear on 4 Oct. On 13 Oct. the 0.70 "30e Anniv. de la Creation du Service du Déminage" will come out; on 20 Oct. the 1.70 "Villes Nouvelles"; on 27 Oct. the 1.00 "Bourgogne" (regional series); on 10 Nov. the 1.20 Année Intern. de la Femme; on 17 Nov. the 0.85 "Picardie" (regional series), and also the 0.80+0.20 Andre Siegfried (for the benefit of Red Cross); on 24 Nov. the 1.20 "50e Anniv. des relations diplomatiques FRANCE-URSS"; on 1 Dec. the 0.60+0.15 "Printemps" and 0.80+0.20 "Automne" (completing the Seasons" series for Red Cross started last year). The latter will be issued also in booklets sold at 7.00F. On 8 Dec. the 1.90 "Poitou" (regional series), and 1.40 sailing Frigate "la Melpomène." No dates set yet for the 1.40 Pont de Saint Nazaire.

Three new values for UNESCO use in the Declaration des Droits de l'Homme design will be issued on 17 Nov., 0.60, 0.80, and 1.20 (can only be used from the P. O. in UNESCO hqs at Place Fontenoy, Paris 7, or its annex, 1 rue Miollis, Paris 15). (The values 0.30, 0.40, and 0.50 in this design are being withdrawn on 14 Nov.) Likewise these same three new values are being issued on 24 Nov. for use of the Conseil de l'Europe in the current flag design, the old values being withdrawn on 21 Nov.

A 1.20F celebrating the Année Intern. de la Femme, painting "La Pubblica" will be issued for Andorre on 10 Nov.

There will be no more CFA overprints, as on 1 Jan. 1975 Reunion adopted the French franc. However, the old CFA stamps can still be used, and covers with combinations of them and French stamps are reported.

Jean Yvert announced in June that he is giving up the editorship of "L'Echo de la Timbrologie" after 20 years, and Jacques Gervais, who has been head of Yvert publications for some years, will become editor. J. Yvert explained that the work of managing the printing firm of Yvert et Tellier would now require all his time. Gervais, the grandson of the late Louis Yvert, has been the promoter and manager of the project to re-issue the Yvert Specialized Catalog of France, Vol. I of which was unveiled at Arphila and now on sale.

Raymond Duxin, long time columnist for Le Monde, has become the new editor of La Philatélie Francaise, replacing Cl. Demaret.

At CINPEX last August member Mrs. Lauren Arango won the Grand Award for her exhibit of "French Transatlantic Covers 1849-75" and Stan Luft took a First for his "Alsace-Lorraine 1870-1945." Stan was luckier at LOUIPEX in June where he won the Grand Award and APS Medal for his exhibit of French Exposition covers and cancels.

At BALPEX on Labor Day weekend we saw some interesting exhibits. Clifford Shafer's "Saint Domingue Covers of the 18th Century French Colonial Period" was remarkable for having nearly all the known marks in very fine strikes; he showed a detailed table of the postage rates within the colony and to France. Dr. A. Friedberg's "Forerunners of Palestine" had some covers from the French offices and we particularly like the one with the beautiful fancy cachet of the French Consulate at Jaffa. Ellery Denison's collection of China Foreign P.O.s showed representative covers of the French offices. Paul Carol's "U. S. Ocean Mails" had some interesting 19th Cent. covers from France to U. S. with various rates and marks.

In the July FCP, p. 56, we described the new 0.60 Bequet as being on a postal stationery envelope—forgive us the goof, it's on a postal card.

The stocks of Arphila souvenir sheets held at the postoffices for subscribers will be withdrawn on Oct. 31 for all those who failed to claim their orders.

The PTT announced in September that the 0.90F Marianne de Béquet would soon be printed by a new high-capacity rotary press. The margins of the sheets from this press will be imprinted "RGR 1" (for "rotative grand rendement").

Paul Demyen of Paris has observed from seeing some issues of our Philatelist that our members have an eager and active interest in information about France and colonies philately. He has therefore kindly offered that if any of our members wishes to have a correspondent in France regarding matters of research or loan of documents, he will be on disposition to assist those who may write him directly. (He reads and writes English fluently.) He himself is a specialist in postal stationery of various countries and also interested in the regular issues of 20 Cent. France—types, coils, booklets, etc. And he has published articles in French journals on French postal stationery. His address is 11, rue Leon Cogniet, F75017-Paris.

The annual APS Convention at Columbus 11-14 Sept. was attended by a number of FCPS members and some awards were garnered. Mme. Lauren Arango's French Transatlantic Covers won a small silver, Luft's French Int'l Expo covers was in Champion of Champions group. Present were Mme. Arango, Walter Brooks, Ed. Hanson, Dave Lidman, George Turner. There was considerable incidental French material in various exhibits: Ellery Denison's Foreign POs in China (Grand Award), in Vic Engstrom's Danish West Indies (Ch. of Champions award), in P. Carrol's "Ocean Mails" (a small gold), and H. Zalstein's "200 Years of Dutch East Indies Postal History."

Laos collectors will be happy to hear that two large speculative issues prepared for use by Laos but unsolicited, by some European firms, with subjects quite unrelated to Laos, have been rejected by the Laos administration, after vigorous protests from J.-L. Dutreix, the Pres. of the Assoc. Int. des Coll. de TP de Laos. They would have been a real rip-off a la Arab emirates.

To obtain TAAF covers you have three ways to go: you can order from the Agence ses Timbres Postes d'Outre Mer, or send covers self-addressed and stamped to the TAAF postmasters, or order from a specialist dealer like Ch. Demarest (58 rue Lafayette, F75009-Paris). Time is short for next seasons covers, so send in now. If you send covers to the POs frank them with 35F CFA TAAF stamps and no more than several covers to a PO, address them to

Mon. le Gérant Postal de —, TAAF. From ATOM you can order FDCs but at extra cost naturally: 25% over the postage rate from TAAF for simple letter which is 0.20F (French), or over the registration postage which is 0.70 F (Fr). You can send in to ATOM your own self addressed covers for them to stamp, or buy from them at added cost covers they can supply plain or cacheted. Address is 85 ave. de la Bourdonnais, F75007-Paris. Send M.O. only and indicate what POs and stamps you want.

Georges Chapier, of Lyons, a very prolific writer of philatelic articles and notes, as well as historical works on Savoie, died last May at 67 years. He is probably best known for his little catalog of Cinderella stamps. Several of his articles appeared in FCP some years ago. His knowledge of philatelic matters was phenomenal and he answered half of the questions submitted to the Q & A columns of the French philatelic magazines.

P. DeLizeray draws attention to the fact that the four new 1975 precancels ("préos") of France are produced by a new process. They are not in typo from galvanos as in the past but by photogravure from a typo image. The printing plant had previously used this process for pubs in booklet margins and for surcharges of "Affranchissements Postes" on the Gallic money type. But the new préos are the first in which the stamp itself was done from photogravure. The Director of the Perigueux printing plant hinted at Arphila that there would be a trend to this new method of printing stamps.

French stamp designer-engraver Jacques Derrey died on 17 May.

The Académie de Philatelie, Paris, has elected Roger Loeillet and Jean-Francois Brun to membership in the Academy, which is limited to 40 persons. Loeillet had his tremendous collection of classic France in the honor court at Arphila. Brun is a well-known Paris dealer-expert, and now also editor of Feuilles Marcophiles.

It is reported that the French Aerogrammes, which heretofore have been printed by commercial presses under contract, will in the future be printed by the government plant at Perigueux.

The PTT has introduced at some large POs the use of Toshiba-make machine-cancelling devices, as an experiment. These machines are faster than others but the postmark imprint has such small lettering that it is often illegible.

At the Danam Sale of July 25-26, the catalog of which was sent to all FCPS members, the French material for "estimated" items brought close to the auctioneer's estimates on the average, and for the catalogued items about 2/5ths to 1/2 cat (Scott or Yvert) on the average. The superb used copy of the 1Fr lake Nap. imperf brought \$1025, which was slightly above Yvert—no doubt it would have brought more in France.

The Documents Officiels, printed by the PTT for the Musée Postal, of the four Arphila designs were printed in 50,000 quantity each (normal printing of the DOs is 32,000), and of the Arphila souvenir sheet 60,000.

Some time ago it will be recalled, the PTT began to fabricate the flamme postmarks so that the flamme (slogan part) was at right and cancelled the stamps as a rule, which created a great howl of complaint from the numerous flamme collectors. Then the PTT devised a new type which the flamme was at left but with a date and place beneath it. However, since then some flammes have come out in the old original format, some in the new format, and some still in the right-hand type. So the complaints continue. It turns out that the reason for the right-hand flamme type to still be used is that the cost to the promoters of the flamme is twice as great for the left hand or new types as for the right-hand type, so many promoters chose the right-hand type. Simple as that!

A special type of machine cancel is used at some French sorting P.O.s to cancel stamps on letters received which for some reason were not cancelled at p.o. of origin. The cancelling is done by a SECAP machine. The normal machine flamme cancel has the date block replaced by the name of the P.O. with its number, in a band of parallel wavy lines. These uses are not common and so far reported only for Amiens, Caen, Grenoble, Lille, Orleans, Toulouse, Tours, and Montargis. It is called the "Type Montargis" because the use was first reported from there.

The question of advertising premium prices for "never hinged" mint stamps has become heatedly controversial in France. The amount of "re-gummed" stamps flooding the market has greatly increased as a result of the demand for "never hinged." J. Robineau has suggested that dealers should specify "with original gum" when guaranteeing and that the magazines should not accept advertising which does not specify "original gum" instead of "never hinged." Some dealers decry the fad ("charnerité," "gommomania") for never hinged, but many collectors blame the dealers for promoting it by advertising them at higher prices. Some one even suggested teaching new collectors to concentrate on used stamps.

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, AND CATALOGS

- "Catalogue Cérés 1976—34e Ed," in 4 Vols.: Vol. I France 1849-1900; Vol. 2 France 1900-1975 (incl. Europa and UNR; Vol. 3 Territoires d'Outre-Mer (incl. Andorre and Monaco); Vol. 4 Colonies, General Issues to Zanzibar. Bureaux Etrangers. Total 600 pp., 1975, illustr. 28Fr+4.60 postage. From Ed. Cérés, 25 rue du Louvre, F75041-Paris Cedex 01. (The vol. 1 is specialized with prices for pairs, blocks, strips, cancels on and off cover, etc.)
- "Catalogue Maury 1976 France Spécialisé et Pays d'Expression Française." In a single vol., 1975, 36 Fr pp. A Maury, 6 Blvd. Montmartre, F17009-Paris. (This year offers some more specialized treatment of the Blanc Type and some other special sidelines.)
- "Catalogue Thiaude 1976, Tome I France Spécialisé." 1975, 12 Fr p.p. "Tome II, Anciennes Colonies" was to appear in Sept. (H. Thiaude, 24 rue du 4-Septembre, F75002-Paris. (Continues expansion of specialized listings and added information, guides for expertizing, etc.)
- "Catalogue des Variétés de France 1900-1975," 5th Ed. 1975. By L. Wanos. 65 Fr plus post. Ed. Cérés, 25 rue du Louvre, F175041 Paris Cedex 01. (A new edition of the former cat. by Wanos and DeBelleville, last ed. of which was in 1964. A compilation of varieties of 20th French issues with prices.)
- "Spécialisé France: Timbres Poste de 1900 et de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale 1939-1945." By R. Francon. 1975 100 Fr p.p. The author, 17 rue Franki Kramer, F07100-Annonay. (Lists and prices stamps by types, sheets, coils, varieties, essays, millesimes, proofs, entire, etc.; uses a special numbering system; "current market prices.")
- "Les Entiers Expliqués par les Tarifs Postaux—Tome II." B. R. Ginestet. 1975, 28 pp. illustr. Brochure #176, Le Monde des Phil., 12.50 Fr p.p. Le Monde, 11bis Blvd. Haussmann, F75009-Paris.
- "Musée Postal; Maison de la Poste et de la Philatélie." 56 pp. 1975, Le Monde Brochure #177, 11.85 Fr p.p., Le Monde des Phil. (see above) (A description of the legends to the various exhibits at the M.P.—a sort of outline of postal history.)

- "Les Timbres Francais de 1974, Notices Officielles des P.T.T." 44 pp. 1975, 14 Fr p.p. Le Monde Brochure #178.
- "Nomenclature des Timbres Poste de France, Tome VII: VIIe et VIIIe Period 1945-59." By Dr. R. Joany. 80 pp. 1975, illustr. 20 Fr p.p. The author, 33 Ave. de Suffren, F75007 Paris. (See Review.)
- "Les Premier Timbres Francais de Jacques-Jean Barre 1849 à 1853." By Jean L. Angot. 28 pp. illustr. 1975. 15 Fr from various Paris dealers. (A deluxe reproduction of the maquettes, essays, proofs, methods of printing, etc.)
- "Marques Postales et Oblitérations de l'Aveyron 16451-876." By J. Laccasagne. 1975, 134 pp. illustr. 50Fr+post. The author, 8 rue Sarrus, F12000-Rodez. (A monograph on the postal markings of this Dept.)
- "Le Service Postal Militaire Francais Pendant la Guerre de 1914/18." By B. Sinais. 200 pp. 1975. 60 Fr. From Paris dealers. (Complements the book of Deloste, gives postal history of the service based on the archives.)
- "Histoire Postale et Militaire de la Guerre de 1914-1918." By G. Deloste. Re-issued ed. 1975. 150Fr plus post. Image Document, 5 rue Saint Romain, F75006-Paris. (A classic work out of print for some time.)
- "Les Oblitérations Mécaniques, Temporaires, et Premiers Jours d'Algérie (des Origines à 1962)." By G. Chapier. 1st and 2nd Suppls to the basic work. 18 pp. 1975. 6Fr (Reprint from L'Echo.)
- "Catalogue F.S.A.—Timbres de la Libération, Emissions de Curzay, Poitiers, et Tours-Gare." 7th ed. By G. Barbe, BP. 118, F75722-Paris.
- "Les Internées Francais en Suisse." By H. Kastler. 62 pp. illustr. 1975? 54Fr p.p. Sold by Ph. Roumet, 17 rue Drouot, F75009-Paris. (An important work on this subject by a Swiss expert.)
- "Premier Catalogue-Francais des Cartes Postales de Collection." By J. and G. Neudin. 80 pp. 1975, illustr. 24 Fr. The authors, 35 rue de Geoffroy St. Helaine, 75005-Paris. (A priced list of French picture postcards classified by subjects.)

Nomenclature des Timbres Poste de France, Tome VII: VIIe et VIIIe Period 1945-59. By Dr. R. Joany, 1975, 79 pp. illustr. 8Fr.

We are happy to have occasion again to call attention to Dr. Joany's excellent series of pamphlets on the stamps of France, reprinted from serial articles in various journals over the last 15 years. Of the 15 volumes there is one more to come, which will start in *La Philatélie Française* shortly. However, vols. 1-4 and 11 are already out of print. When the series is finished the author may, we hope, consider reprinting them all in one book perhaps. The present vol. covers the "broken-chain," Cérés de Maselin, the various Mariannes, and the sites, monuments, arms, personnages types, from 1945 to 1959, excepting only the high values which will be treated in the next Tome under airmails. The treatment is systematic, concise, but contains much information not found in the catalogues, including results of recent researches. The main "types," kinds of paper, shades, postal rates, quantities printed, etc., are given. But the intent is to be useful to beginners and medium specialists in organizing their collections on a rational basis, rather than for the advanced specialists (who might find it useful too). No other publication or catalogue quite strikes this balance.—R.G.S.

Special 'French Connection' Number of Fil-Italia, the Journal of the Italy and Colonies Study Circle, #6, Autumn 1975, 40 p. (124 Selkirk Rd., Twickenham, Middlx., TW 26 PU, England.)

This special issue is largely devoted to French postal history related to Italy. A long article by Henri Tristant on the Italian occupations of parts

of France 1940-43 and the Italian PO in Menton puts into English a very thorough study he previously published in French. An article by C. W. E. Coles on the French P.O. in Rome (to 1817) gives a good survey of the literature on this. M. Domenech writes on the last Sardinian POs created in Savoy before its cession to France 1852-59 based on his great book on Savoy. J. Guiraud-Darmais has a short piece on the postage fees by tampon on letters of Monaco.

1976 Thiaude Catalogue, Vol. I France. H. Thiaude, 24 rue de 4 Septembre F75080 Paris.

256 pp. 12F plus postage. New 8¾x9¼" format, this volume covers only France, U. N., and Europa. Both technical notes and illustrations of forgeries expanded, and information on quantities printed now covers 20th issues. Listings of cancels now grouped with each issue rather than in separate section. Prices on classic material, reflecting recent auction realizations, up 15-33%; similar increases noted for early 20th issues, with more modest increases posted for later issues such as the paintings series. Expanded coverage of Libération issues, with some substantial increases in quotations as interest has developed. For my money, still the best annual catalogue of France.—J.E.L.

Catalogue Spécialisé des Timbres de France, Tome I (1849-1900). Yvert & tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, F80036 Amiens.

352 pp. 180F plus postage. Here at last is the long-awaited revision of the first part of the 1939 specialized catalogue. Hard bound and lavishly illustrated, though some will complain about the changes from traditional issue-by-issue listings.

New 9x11½" format, on glossy paper, contrasts markedly with the last 433-page edition on smaller pages, and the extra space has been admirably filled by expanded listings and illustrations. Many new cuts to show the varieties and cancels on the classic issues. Quotations show sensitive monitoring of recent offerings, particularly of first-issue material.

If you regret having missed the first volume of the "Encyclopedia" at 150F in 1968 (now 290F), you will die again if you pass up this excellent study of the entire range of 19th Century classic France.—J.E.L.

CURRENT JOURNAL ARTICLES

Le Monde Des Philatelistes

- #277, June 1975: Phillipon: "La Marianne de Decaris" (begin); Tristant: "Libre Propos (sur TAAF)"; Rouques: "Fluorescence et phosphorescence"; cont. of serials by Joany, Baudelocque, Danan, DeWailly, Savélon, Vartan, Melot et Landl, Rykner et Gobillot, Gavault, Tristant, Febre, Lebland, DeLizeray, Joffre.
- #278, July-Aug. 1975: Vitalyos: "Refléxions apres Arphila"; Chapier: "Les marques Lyonnais déboursés"; "Colloque Arphila Paris 75"; cont. serials by Joany, Vartan, Frybourg, Savélon, DeLizeray, Rykner et Gobillot, Baudelocque, DeWailly, Lebland, Gavault, Phillipon, Danan, Prugnon.
- #279, Sept. 1975: Dutreix: "Les émissions pirates en ecneq au Laos"; "1er Suppl. au Cat. Des Entiers Francais—"; Cont. of serials: Joany, Vartan, Baudelocque, Danan, Prugnon, Gavault, Savélon, DeLizeray, Rouques (coins datés), Fr. en Thém., Frybourg, Mélot et Landl, Brémard.

L'Echo de la Timbrologie

- #1451 Jan. 1975: Rivière: "Les timbres des retraites ouvrières et paysannes"; Tristant: "TAAF—les oblitérations les jours"; "courrier de la Campagne 1974-75"; cont. serials by Munier, Lordet, Brijon.
- #1452, Feb. 1975: Rivière: "Les timbres des assurances sociales"; Lordet cont.
- #1453, March 1975: Lux: "Le debut des affranchissements mécaniques en France"; Rivière: "Les timbres dits d'épargne, peculé de guerre et permissionnaires de guerre; les timbres des retraites ouvrières et paysannes en Alsace-Lorraine"; Pacquelin: "Le service des colis postaux en Alsace-Lorr.—grande letter G au recto de timbre poste"; Tristant: "Actualités de TAAF."
- #1454, April 1975: Lebland: "Le type Mouchon retouché des Bur. Fr. à l'étranger" (begin serial); Charbonnier: "Les cachets oblitérants au type Montargis"; Raynaud: "Les émissions de l'Afrique Française Libre" (begin); Goubin: "Empreintes des Chambres de Commerce en Grève 1974"; cont. serials by Lordet, Munier, Tristant, Concorde.
- #1455, May 1975: Bury: "la poste Belge à Sainte-Adresse en 1914"; Fal-lot: "Les timbres téléphone de France"; Chapier: "Les fictifs Palissy—essai de classification"; Gobin: "Le faux 15Fr rouge Marianne de Gandon"; Lebland: "Type Mouchon —" (end); Blanc: "Pasteur 10c vert un type special aux carnets"; cont. of Lordet, Tristant.
- #1456, June 1975: Fromageat: "Ballons certains et plis confiés"; Raynaud: "Les émissions de l'Afrique Fr. Libre" (end); "Communiqué du Bureau d'études de P et T d'Outre-Mer" (on obtaining TAAF covers); Brun: "Collectionneurs méfiez vous"—(fake "Courrier Off." stamps); Cont. of Munier, Lordet, Tristant.
- #1457, July-Aug. 1975: Lux: "Des vignettes 'Code Postal' émise par les PTT"; cont. of Lordet, Tristant.

Philatélie (50Fr/yr; 42 rue le Pelletier, F75009-Paris)

- #85, April 1975: "Mettant leur Apollon aux gages—un metier mercenaire (the engravers)"; "La course folle des courriers de Napoleon (1)"; "Le premier jour du timbre" (3) (end); "En 1708 Jacques Lequien de Neufville un amateur bier avisé"; "Le sesquicentenaire des chemins de fer"; "Etude émission de Bordeaux 1870."
- #86, May 1975: "Les femmes et la philatélie"; Duvergey: "Timbres de la Libération"; "Quand des dames de la Poste"; "Les premières bureaux ambulants"; "Un institution désuétée—les recettes auxiliaires"; "La course folle des courriers de Napoleon (2)"; "Le service postal du corps expéditionnaires d'Orient puis l'Armée d'Orient."
- #87, June 1975: Dehaye: "L'Art du Timbre"; "La course folle des courriers de Napoleon (3)"; "La Poste aux Lettres n'a plus besoin de chevaux" (150 anniv. of railroads); "A. De Rothschild—collectionneur est le propre de l'homme"; "Le procès en appel de Jean de Sperati"; Lebland: "Les timbres au type Merson"; "Un timbre rare de France—le 5c Report 1 de Bordeaux"; Sinais: "Service postal du corps expéd. de l'Orient" (begin).

La Philatélie Française

- #255, May 1975: Duxin: "N. V. Nagwekar, a 20 ans 2nd Prix concours Arphila"; Barzic: "L'automation dans le tri du courrier post"; de-Wailly et Michel: "Les machines à affranchir Français" (cont.); cont. of Harnould, Delbrel, Storch et Demeny.
- #256, June 1975: Achille-Fould: "Histoire de l'aéropostale"; (reports on

- Arphila); Houlteau: "Le ligne aérienne Paris-Nice-Paris 1945-6"; Delbrel: "Catalogue cartes maximum aux peintures" (cont.); Prospen: "Vol au Arent July 1931"; "Sur les faux plis des TAAF"; Oliver: "Les empreintes de machines affranchir en Prin. d'Andorre."
 #257, July-Aug. 1975: "Surval d'Arphila 75"; "Les griffes étoilées et losanges de points 1852-76"; Berthelot: "Les premiers Journées du Timbre."

Feuilles Marcophiles

- #200, June 1975 (special Arphila issue): (price 60Fr)
 Bruno: "Les postes en Bas-Poitou des origines à 1792"; Lenain: "La poste fr. en Corse au 18e siècle"; Delwaulle: "La famille Rameau au service de la poste aux lettres de Bethune pendant plus d'un siècle"; Delwaulle: "Les lettres simples de Paris pur Paris de la fin de la Petite Poste à l'apparition du timbre—bureaux de quartier"; Gutekunst: "La Petite Poste de Strasbourg 1779-81"; Pothion: "La réorganisation des postes —loi du prairial An VI (1798)"; L'Huillier: "Les marques postales d'Armées—lettres de soldats"; Wolter: "La surveillance de la poste dans le région Aix-la-Chapelle-Cologne 1794-1815"; Herlant: "A Roulers dans de Dept. de la Lys #91 en An IX"; Domenech: "Les marques postales de Savoie 1814-1816"; Chapier: "Les trois mystères marcophiles de Lyon"; Rachou: "Les ports-payés des distributions durant la période intermédiaire du 1 Mail 1830-28 Aout 1831"; Pannetier: "La marque P.P. sous le timbre"; Vuille: "Convention franco-suisse de 1849 et son application"; Salles: "Les agences postales consulaires fr. en Amérique du Sud 1862-73"; Schatzkes: "Comptoir d'Assinie"; Noel: "Les timbres pour journaux, timbres poste et précurseurs fiscaux"; Bretonnière: "La poste dans la Commune"; Dreyfuss: "Les affranchissements de la période au type Sage"; Parlange: "Marcophilie fluviale—bureau des écluses et de barrages"; Petit: "Marcophilie militaire—le service postale pendant les manoeuvres métropolitaines cad 1880-1913"; Guiraud-Darmais: "Essai d'étude des cachets et couronnes PP utilisés dans Monaco depuis 1885"; Tristant: "Les premiers courriers postaux des Iles Kerguelen"; Camboulives: "La poste française et le transsibérien"; Gachot: "Les 'avances de la poste' et les 'remboursements' en Alsace-Lorr. 1872-1939"; Dumont: "Les étiquettes postales"; Sénéchal: "L'Elysée et ses marques postales"; Carnevalé-Mauzan: "Les camps de prisonniers de guerre de l'axe en France et en Afrique Française à la suite de la 2nd Guerre Mondiale".
 #201, 2nd Trim. 1975: Feyrin: "Les boîtes aux lettres de Paris au 18th siècle"; Allard: "Les oblitérations losanges de points des bur. de quartier de Paris"; Barbey: "Historique de la poste au imprimées avant 1850" (cont.); Morin: "Les oblitérations de Dedeagh"; Cappart: "Plis confiés aux aéronauts—cachets des Aéroliers"; Noel: "Une arrivée inédite de la Commune"; Catherine: "Au Havre pendant la première Guerre Mondiale—cachets de franchise des formations sanitaires et militaires de Fr et des alliés"; Sinais: "Ordre de bataille postale de l'Armée d'Orient en July 1918"; Desrousseaux: "A propos du courrier France-proche Orient en 1940 et de la fin de la ligne franc. d'Extreme Orient"; Annet: "Contribution à l'étude de la correspondance des prisonniers de Guerre 1939-45—cachets administratives"; Charbonnier: "Les guichets annexes fixes (GAF)" (cont.); Lamar: "Pour servir à l'histoire de la Daguin"; Cornuejols: "Les cachets grands chiffres refaits ou modifiés 1863-76."

F. & C. P. S. OFFICIAL

At the Board meeting of 16 Sept. it was confirmed that the Society has rented a booth at INTERPHIL next summer to be shared jointly with the Fine Arts Philatelists, Inc. A program for us to present at the show is under consideration.

The Special Arphila issue of Feuilles Marcophiles will be obtained for the Coll. Club library but not the Yvert Specialized Catalogue.

A considerable number of members will probably be attending and some exhibiting at NOJEX, Cranford, N. J. on Oct. 24-26; it will be an opportunity to meet with some local and out of town members.

Meeting of 2 September, 1975

Our well known member and Associate Editor of the Scott Catalog, Lou Robbins spoke on the factors which influenced the prices printed in the catalog. He indicated that the prices noted for the vast majority of stamps below \$100 are probably more in tune with the market than many people like to think. It must be remembered that the catalog is a value guide not a buying or selling price list. The exceptions to this, perhaps, are the lowest prices noted. To sell below them would not be profitable for any dealer because of his overhead. The values quoted for rarities, usually in italics, are usually the most out of touch with the market because of the rarity with which these items come up for sale. Some of these change hands only once in a lifetime, and in these cases how much money one has and how badly one wants it are usually price determining. This is also true of stamps on cover. Many factors other than rarity are price determining for them. Another factor which influences price is popularity. If a country is in collecting favor, the prices of its stamps go up. If not, they either remain steady or, in some cases, go down.

A fact we should all remember is that catalogs are privately produced books, therefore their owners can greatly influence what items are included and what are not. A comparison of a number of American and European catalogs will show a large number of items included by some, and not by others. This may also play a role in the price of an item.

A lively discussion followed the talk.—MFS



IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS OF THE FRANCE AND COLONIES GROUP

This is an "historic" picture by our candid-camera artist Adrien Boutrelle of the meeting of the F & C Group meeting of September 1942 held at a dealer's office in room 902 at 505 Fifth Ave., with the late Gerard Gilbert (standing) delivering a talk about his interesting experiences in a long career as dealer and Ferrari auctioneer and showing a few rarities he had brought out from Paris just before the Germans came. On the far side we recognize Raoul Lesgor (cigar in hand) and Greg Mozian to his left; in the foreground at right are Steve Rich and the late Charlie Vaurie (from whose files this picture was kindly given us by his widow). Among the others present we suppose may have been J. B. Kremer, J. Musy, Ed. Queyroy, Francis Colombain, George Mary, Leon Monosson, Dr. Wood, Geo. Tisserant, Helen Anthony, Louise Clemencon, John Morrison, Ray Andrieux.



The Regular Issues of France Since 1876

By Stanley J. Luft (#915)

XII. Engraved Large-format Regular Issues of 1946-1954

Since the early 1950s, it has been the practice of the French P.T.T. to hold first-day ceremonies for a new issue at one or more cities, commonly on a Saturday, and to place the stamp on general sale one to three days later, usually on the following Monday. This is analogous to the first-day system in the United States, where the first day of general sale is one day (sometimes more) later than the "first day" of issue. Inasmuch as the writer prefers to deal with "normal usage," first days of issue henceforth shown in this work are, in so far as possible, the first days of general over-the-counter sale to the public, and therefore will be slightly later than the ones shown on philatelic first-day covers. We hope the first-day-cover collectors among us will understand and accept this personal point of view.

A. "Monuments and Sites" stamps of 1946-1948

5F

The 5F Vézelay (Scott 568, Yvert 759) was printed in sheets of 50 stamps (4 press runs) between 24 June 1946 and 21 June 1947, and issued 20 July 1946-15 Nov. 1947; 34,545 million stamps printed—deep and dull shades in 1946, bright or reddish shades in 1947.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 1 Jan. 1946):

Registry fee, for other than letters and parcels;
Supplementary value.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 1 Jan. 1947) (1-2 days only):

Letters, to 20 gm;
Printed matter, from 50 to 100 gm.

Left without specific usage by domestic Tariff of 2 Jan. 1947, but retained as a supplementary value.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 8 July 1947):

*Postal cards;
Invoices, unsealed, to 20 gm.

Replaced by the 5F blue Marianne de Gandon (Sc 579, Yv 719B) beginning in summer of 1947.

6F

The 6F Cannes (Sc 573, Yv 777) was printed in sheets of 50 stamps (5 press runs) between 10 Jan. and 20 June 1947, and issued 10 Feb.-15 Nov. 1947; 16.38 million stamps printed.

Foreign usage (Tariff of 1 Feb. 1946):

*Postal cards (printed in UPU "red");
Printed matter, from 100 to 150 gm;
Letters, to 20 gm, to Canada and Luxembourg, and to nearby areas of Belgium, Spain, and Switzerland;
Letters, increments of 20 gm above first 20 gm.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 1 March 1947):

*Letters, from 20 to 50 gm.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 8 July 1947):

*Letters, to 20 gm;
Printed matter, from 50 to 100 gm;
Printed matter, to 20 gm, "urgent" (fast service).

Replaced by the 6F carmine-rose Marianne de Gandon (Sc 580, Yv 721A) in later part of 1947.

(To be continued)

NEW MEMBERS

- 1610 **ABRAITIS**, Mrs. Rochelle, 86 Jefferson Lane, East Hartford, Conn. 06118 (General France all major varieties: mint and used. Modern France mint and used. Philatelic Literature)
- 1611 **PERRY**, A. T., 5280 Haverford, Indianapolis, Ind. 46220 (General collector all issues General France all major varieties: mint and used. Classics 1849-1876 used, on cover. Modern France: mint, used, on cover. Special issues and usages: Franchise Militaire, Stationery, Precancels, Perfins, Occupation issues of and by France. Colonies and Territories pre-1960. Colonies General Issues: mint, used, on cover. All colonies and territories major varieties. French Communities to independence. Cancels and postal history. Stamps and covers of Terres Australes, Polynesia. Philatelic Literature)
- 1612 **HELLEBREKERS**, Boudewyn, Goeman Borgesiuslaan 6, Amstelveen, Netherlands (Paris "Marques Postales." Military Posts, especially 1914-1918 used abroad. Postal history in general. Sage type 1876-1900 used and on cover. Modern France: used, on cover, Blanc, Mouchon, & Merson Types, Sowers, booklets, coils. Special issues and usages: telephone and telegraph, Dues, Newspaper, Franchise Militaire, Stationery, Precancels, Occupation issue of and by France. Offices Abroad 1876-1900. Philatelic Literature. Exchange)
- 1613 **KARGER**, Michel, c/o Panorama Tours, Inc., P. O. Box 281, Place Victoria, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H4Z 1E8 (General Collector all issues to 1950. General France all major varieties used. Exchange)
- 1614 **HASSON**, Mary M., 5728 Salem Drive, El Paso, Texas 79924 (Topical: Americana, Space. Military posts of France. Special issues & usages: Franchise Militaire, Essays (Projects, Rejected Designs), Deluxe proofs, imperforates, Artists proofs and color trials, Specimen, Annulé, Fictifs, Occupation (by France) Issues. Colonies General Issues: mint and used. Cancels stamps and covers of individual colonies: Fezzan, Ghadames 1949-1951. Philatelic Literature. Exchange)
- 1615 **CASE**, Karl, 461 Fair Drive 202, Costa Mesa, Calif. 92626 (Topical: French Foreign Legion, Gems, Minerals, Jewelry. Military Posts, Postal history in general. Special issues and usages: Franchise Militaire, Stationery, Liberation Issues. Reference to Foreign Legion means any and all types of material relating to same. Philatelic Literature. Exchange)
- 1616 **SAVARD**, John B., 2106 Radatz Ave., North St. Paul, Minn. 55109 (General France all major varieties, mint, used, on cover. Stampless covers after 1815. Paris "Marques Postales." Railway Posts, Postal history in general. Classics 1849-1876: mint, used, on cover, cancellations. Modern France: mint, semi-postals, air mails, booklets, coils, maximum cards, first day covers, miniature sheets (bloc feuillets). Special issues and usages: Telephone and telegraph, dues Franchise Militaire, precancels. Offices Abroad. Andorre, Monaco, French Antarctica. Philatelic Literature)
- 1617 **GIRLEY**, Robert W., P. O. Box 25865, Albuquerque, New Mex. 87125 (General Collector 19th Century. Dealer part time. Philatelic Literature)
- 1618 **WORLEY**, Rev. Edmond V., 18485 Lake Shore Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44119 (Stamps, Postal History, Covers, Stationery of Annam & Tonkin, Cochinchina, and Indo China)

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Walter E. Parshall, Corresponding Secretary